

Hafa Adai!

Torres says he has not met any potential bidder for Saipan casino license. **PAGE 3**
HHS says that DHS' 'public charge rule' no longer in effect. **PAGE 6**

\$1

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WEDNESDAY JULY 28, 2021

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Testing upon arrival removed for fully vaccinated travelers

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force are easing one aspect of the entry protocols: Effective July 28, 2021, verified fully vaccinated travelers are

» **Fifth-day testing after arrival still in force**

no longer required to test upon arrival into the CNMI by sea or air, but will still be tested on the fifth day after arrival.

Fully vaccinated travelers
See **TESTING** on **Page 4**

'Rules for int'l flights stricter than for Guam travelers'

» **Travel Bubble with Korea only for vaccinated group travel**

The Marianas Visitors Authority emphasized yesterday that visitors to the Marianas aboard flights from foreign countries are required to show a negative PCR test for COVID-19 before boarding their flight—a requirement more stringent than those for ongoing domestic flights from Guam.

See **RULES** on **Page 4**

Babauta, Yeom bicker over IPI's license

» **'CCC moving in direction of revoking IPI's casino license'**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) and Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom squabbled Thursday last week during a

See **BABAUTA** on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:27pm, July 27, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **70.3%**
Fully Vaccinated: **70.3%**

Days since last community transmission **126**

| Pfizer/BioNTech | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Initiated: | 27,293 |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 25,255 |
| Moderna | |
| Initiated: | 4,271 |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 4,022 |
| Janssen | |
| Fully vaccinated: | 536 |

| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|-----------|-------|-----|-------|
| Positive | 8,506 | 8 | 8,514 |
| Recovered | 8,319 | 0 | 8,319 |
| Active | 44 | 8 | 52 |
| Deaths | 143 | 0 | 143 |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Positive | 190 | 0 | 190 |
| Traced via Travel Screening | 154 | 0 | 154 |
| Traced via Community Screening | 36 | 0 | 36 |
| Deaths | 2 | 0 | 2 |

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, and NMC Capital Improvement Projects director Rachel Fusco meet with acting Department of Public Lands secretary Sixto Igisomar, DPL director of Planning Pat Rasa, and Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) to discuss the college's plans for campus development.

NMC

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

29,813 Fully vaccinated



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



LOCAL

The winner of last Friday's \$1,500 raffle in the Road to 80 campaign receives her prize.

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BUSINESS

Xu Hong Mei and Li Gian De are the team behind the Virtue Tailor Shop in San Antonio.

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WORLD

The COVID-19 pandemic is hitting impoverished countries much worse this year.

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Local

Road to 80 raffle winner gets her \$1,500; \$2,000 on Friday



From left, Deep Blue Scuba Diving & Adventure owners Seonghwan Kwak and Eun Jeong Cho share a photo with Road to 80 raffle host Brad Ruszala, right, outside of their business in Garapan on Tuesday morning. Cho was last week's winner of Road to 80's \$1,500 raffle. This Friday, July 30, one winner of \$2,000 will be announced at 5pm on Road to 80's Facebook page.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The winner of last Friday's \$1,500 raffle hosted by the COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80 received her prize on Tuesday morning, with Eun Jeong Cho, who owns Deep Blue Scuba Diving in Garapan with her hus-

band, getting her cash prize in a Facebook Live event—like all past Road to 80 handoffs.

Raffle host Brad Ruszala gave Cho her \$1,500 in cash outside of the couple's business. In brief remarks after receiving her prize, Cho said she hopes more people would go out and get vaccinated to get closer to herd immunity “so that every-

one can return to pre-COVID-19 life as soon as possible.”

This Friday, July 30, one winner of \$2,000 will be announced at 5pm on Road to 80's Facebook page.

Road to 80's series of weekly raffles, which began on July 16, will only pull from a pool of the tens of thousands of people in the CNMI that have

received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine. Everyone who has registered at vaccinatecnmi.com to be vaccinated and has received their shots qualify for the raffle.

For winners to claim their prize, they must submit proof

that they are fully vaccinated. For those who received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, this means providing the second vaccine confirmation number. Those who received the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccines only need to provide their single vaccine confirmation number.

From this week to week seven, the weekly cash prizes are as follows: \$1,500;

\$2,000; \$2,500; \$3,000; \$3,500; \$4,000. On Aug. 28 at the Taste of the Marianas main stage, multiple winners of thousands of dollars and one winner of a 2020 Nissan Rogue will be announced.

Those interested in receiving their COVID-19 vaccine can schedule an appointment online at vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).

CUC ADVISORIES

Water service interruption in parts of Garapan today

There will be an emergency water service interruption today, July 28, 2021, from 8:30am to 4pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the area of Alaihai Avenue in Garapan, behind DFS.

This will allow CUC water operators to repair a 6-inch damaged mainline on Alaihai Avenue. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after. (PR)

Water service interruption in parts of Lower Dandan, As

Lito, Asperdido and Koblerville

There will be an emergency water service interruption on Thursday, July 29, from 8:30am to 4:30pm for CUC customers along Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road (from Shell Dandan gas station to the As Lito Happy Market) and customers behind the Joeten Dandan Building.

This will allow CUC water operators to repair an 8-inch mainline leak located on the northbound lane of Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road next to Happy Market in As Lito. Water service to the affected areas will resume after. (PR)

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Saipan

Torres says he has not met potential bidders for Saipan casino license

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres has always heard that there are other potential bidders that are interested in the Saipan casino license but he said that he has not met any of them.

Responding to a question during a Friday radio news briefing, Torres said that talk of other potential bidders for a casino license on Saipan has always been talked about. "But I personally have not met any company, or anyone who brought in any new company that's interested in gaming," he said.

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom had disclosed at a House Gaming Committee meeting last Thursday that there are legitimate inquiries from potential bidders for a Saipan casino license in the event Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's license is revoked.

At the same meeting, Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) said the IPI casino/resort building in Garapan would be too expensive to fix it up. "I think we should just...dynamite it [and] build a memorial...at the site," Camacho said. The casino sits on an ancient burial site.

Torres on Friday said there is a process to everything and that IPI is going through the legal process. He said the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the Commonwealth Lottery Commission are the entities to take care of that process.

"Those are the entities that have the authority to revoke the license [or] to amend license. And we follow...the protocol...that procedure," he said.



Torres

Torres said that, as the CNMI's governor, he supports every business in the CNMI, whether in good or bad times. He said every business here on the island has struggled at different times.

As for IPI, he said it has a different process and he leaves that process to the right entity to handle the situation.

Last April 22, the CCC board ordered the indefinite suspension of IPI's gaming license for numerous violations. The board also directed IPI to pay \$6.8 million in total penalty within six months, and pay immediately \$15.5 million and \$3.1 million in annual casino exclusive fee and annual casino regulatory fee, respectively. IPI has filed an administrative appeal before the Superior Court.

» Torres says IPI is going through legal process

Torres says they followed correct procedures in creating IRP

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres assured Friday that his administration followed the correct procedures in creating the Infrastructure and Recovery Program that will handle nearly a billion dollars' worth of projects in the CNMI.

Responding to a question during a radio press briefing last week, Torres said that Attorney General Edward Manibusan himself had said that the IRP was structured legally. Torres said this means that the office was created the right way.

The governor said they're moving forward with IRP,

with not just a civil engineer on board but an archeologist too.

At a recent budget hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee for the OAG, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) expressed herself curious whether Torres has legal authority to create an entirely new office, the IRP, to manage these federal funds. Manibusan had told Sablan at that meeting that he believes the IRP was legally structured.

Torres said Friday that IRP is working on hiring more people with the technical skills that they need and some professionals to fill the office. Torres said the IRP is also

working on the current projects that they have already.

"So they will be doing a briefing next week. And so maybe next week, Friday, we can dedicate time just for the IRP," he said.

The governor earlier stated that the IRP will assist the Disaster Relief-Public Assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and hazard mitigation projects and will move forward projects of the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and some road projects. Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo is the IRP's coordinator.

House JGO meeting canceled out of respect for Blanco

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) has postponed the scheduled meeting today, Wednesday, of the House Ju-

diciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Babauta, who chairs the committee, said yesterday that

she cancelled the meeting out of respect for representative Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who just passed away.

She put flowers Monday on Blanco's table in the House chamber.

Wednesday's meeting is postponed until further notice. The JGO chair told Saipan Tribune yesterday that there is no schedule yet on the continuation of the JGO hearing into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' travels and expenses.

Blanco, 45, passed away last Friday. Many described him as a leader, statesman, a true diplomat, and a dedicated public servant. (Ferdie de la Torre)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flowers are laid on the table of the late representative Ivan A. Blanco in the House of Representatives' chamber Monday. Blanco, 45, passed away last Friday.

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NMC updates Torres, Palacios on NMC plans

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly-installed president of the Northern Marianas College, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, called on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios yesterday morning to talk about the college's future plans and the Torres-Palacios administration's role in these plans.

Joining Deleon Guerrero at the meeting at the Office of the Governor conference room were other members of NMC's leadership, during which Torres congratulated Deleon Guerrero on his new role and praised Frankie Eliptico for "holding the fort at NMC" during his three-year stint as the college's interim president.

Torres also encouraged the CNMI's recent high school graduates

to consider NMC when and if they pursue a college education.

"We're excited. I got some updates on the buildings, the master plan, and new programs that will be rolling out so we're here to continue the partnership and make sure that NMC is successful. ...The [Torres-Palacios] administration is in 100% support, and [will] make sure that the new facility is expedited for students," said Torres.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, sixth from left, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, fifth from right, share a photo with Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, fifth from left, and other members of NMC's leadership team and press secretary Kevin Bautista, rightmost, after their meeting at the Office of the Governor conference room on Tuesday.

JOSHUA SANTOS



Kan Pacific wants to drop its suit against IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd., which is suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for breach of contract, has asked the Superior Court to dismiss its complaint.

On Monday, Kan Pacific, through its lawyer, Joseph Iacopino, filed a proposal to dismiss its complaint against IPI without prejudice, meaning the suit can be filed again on the same grounds.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan granted the proposal yesterday.

Back in May, IPI filed a memorandum supporting the motion to dismiss the lawsuit because they believe the suit requires the Department of Public Lands to be involved because the government agency is a significant third-party beneficiary in the dispute.

According to court documents,

Kan Pacific first signed a 40-year lease for 146 hectares of land from DPL on Dec. 15, 1977, and signed the lease again on Dec. 16, 1977. That lease was revised to include a provision that requires DPL's consent or approval for any transfer of property rights or subleases Kan Pacific wishes to do with the land.

Then, around October-December 2015, negotiations between Kan Pacific and IPI were reported in various media platforms. Soon after, news articles were published alleging that a deal had been "signed."

The memorandum stated that during this time negotiations were simply to ensure that IPI was in the best possible position to secure the next lease from DPL, and the "deal" was an agreement between Kan Pacific and IPI to transfer the lease to IPI.

Soon after, Saipan Entertainment filed a lawsuit contesting the legality of the "deal," alleging that DPL did not consent to the negotiations. The afore-

mentioned "deal" was then nullified.

A new agreement between Kan Pacific and IPI in 2016 was reached. The agreement essentially transferred all assets and operations from Kan Pacific to IPI and required Kan Pacific to encourage present employees to join IPI.

Pursuant to the agreement IPI was to make a \$17.5-million payment to Kan Pacific, with an initial payment of \$12.5 million and the remaining to be paid in instalments of \$200,000 per year for the next 25 years, beginning June 2017.

The new agreement also ordered a \$16-million payment from Kan Pacific to DPL, which now made DPL a significant third-party beneficiary to the 2016 agreement.

IPI eventually did not win their bid for DPL's new lease of the land, as IPI was unable to meet the requirements imposed by DPL. After three annual payments from IPI to Kan Pacific, IPI did not make a payment in 2020, which resulted in the breach of contract lawsuit.

in our favor."

Travelers applying for any modified quarantine may receive an application decision after they arrive and may be required to quarantine at the designated government facility pending approval. It is recommended to apply at least 72 hours prior to arrival into the CNMI, as requests are processed in the order of receipt and validation.

The CNMI is reminded to watch out for misinformation and to follow updates directly from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC. The spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself.

Consider registering for COVID-19 vaccinations at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, by calling the CHCC call center at 682-SHOT (7468), or registering in person at any vaccination site.

Updates from the COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC can be found on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts @governorcnmi and @cnmiccc, as well as through CNMI media partners. (PR)

Palacios has high hopes for the college's future. "I'm looking at the team that you guys are introducing to us this morning, and I'm very excited. A lot of our own people are coming back to put together this college and realize the vision we all had for this college," said Palacios.

Deleon Guerrero thanked Torres and Palacios for their continuous support of the college, and lauded Eliptico for what he was able to accomplish during his interim presidency. Deleon Guerrero said he and Eliptico "go way back since junior

high" and that he has always enjoyed working with Eliptico and the rest of the team at NMC.

"I'm very happy to join [Eliptico] and the team with everything they've built at the college. They've sailed that *proa* [indigenous canoe, which is NMC's logo] through some of the most turbulent waters, whether it be typhoons, austerity measures, or the pandemic. They kept it afloat, they kept sailing ahead, and now we're just really excited to be building upon that success toward a brighter future," said Deleon Guerrero.

RULES

From Page 1

The policy aligns with the U.S. national standard for all arriving passengers from foreign destinations. The requirement applies to all flights, including weekly flights by Jeju Air, Asiana Airlines, and T'Way from Korea, which began last Saturday, July 24). Passengers will still need to quarantine for five days at the government's designated hybrid quarantine resort, and must test negative for a third time before release.

"The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and CNMI COVID-19 Task Force have done a tremendous job of preventing COVID-19 at our borders, and all of our offshore travel partners in Korea are aware that all passengers must have a negative PCR within 72 hours prior to embarkation to the Marianas," said MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo. "This requirements for international flights are even more stringent than what has been applied for arriving

passengers from Guam, where we still continue to see some cases pop up. With our first flight from Korea last [July 24] and our familiarization tour flight on July 17, we did not have any positive tests," Iakopo said.

She emphasized that community protection against COVID-19 remains the central point of discussion among public and private sector partners involved in the planning for the pilot program.

Iakopo also emphasized that under the new travel bubble between the Marianas and Korea, only group travel for vaccinated individuals is encouraged, and all nonvaccinated passengers will still need to quarantine for five days.

Under the two-month CNMI Travel Resumption Investment Plan program, after five days of quarantine, passengers will then be allowed to transfer to only two other approved hotels on Saipan. If the program is successful in maintaining community safety against COVID-19, the industry is anticipated to continue a slow and organic recovery over the coming months. (PR)

BABAUTA

From Page 1

House Gaming Committee meeting after Babauta accused the CCC of protecting the interest of casino licensee Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Babauta said she finds it frustrating that CCC has not really laid any serious claims against IPI in terms of financial penalties, other than the \$6 million it earlier imposed on the company.

The lawmaker said it appears—at least from her viewpoint—that, although the CCC works for the CNMI government, it is reluctant to revoke IPI's casino license.

"It appears that you guys are protecting their interests, not the CNMI government. So that's why I have a problem and frustration with it," she said.

Yeom said he strongly disagrees with Babauta. "How can we be protecting a private company when I work for the Commonwealth," Yeom asked.

Babauta said she understands due process but CCC is giving IPI so much leeway.

Yeom stated he has no intention of giving any personal favors to IPI but before he could even complete his explanation of what is allowed by law, Babauta interrupted that IPI assets are being sold by the U.S. District Court for the NMI, yet

CCC is just sitting by the sidelines. "You're not claiming a stake in any of their assets and you guys work for the CNMI government," Babauta said.

Yeom said it is the Department of Finance that is the one that collects the funds and has the liens on IPI.

Yeom said they have already suspended IPI's casino license and that regulatory suspension means almost a death sentence for IPI. He explained that suspending the license means IPI cannot go anywhere in the international community to get help and raise funds to pay off its debts and obligations.

"It's pretty much a death sentence," he pointed out.

Babauta countered that, by stating that the CCC does not know whether IPI's casino license is going to be revoked or not, that is giving false hope.

Yeom replied that that's not what he said. He pointed out that he cannot guarantee that IPI's license is going to be revoked today or tomorrow, but that they are definitely moving in that direction. He said the casino license suspension just happened in the last few months and that he's been advised by their legal counsel, assistant attorney general Michael Ernest, "to do it every step of the way correctly and legally."

Yeom said they are giving IPI due process and making sure that the CCC follows the law.

"I'm not here to argue with you," Yeom told Babauta.

TESTING

From Page 1

are able to quarantine at their lodging or home after being verified for completing their COVID-19 vaccination ("vax verified") and passing a lodging- or household assessment. If their household assessment fails, travelers will be required to quarantine at a government quarantine facility.

"Vax verified" individuals are individuals who have uploaded onto their health declaration form proof of completing a COVID-19 vaccine series. CDC Vaccination Record Cards are not vaccination records accepted for travel into the CNMI. For individuals who were vaccinated in the CNMI, vaccination records from CHCC will be used to verify vaccination status.

For individuals who were vaccinated elsewhere, they will have to provide an official immunization record from their vaccine provider that must include the following information: vaccine administrator, recipient's name, recipient's date of birth, vaccination site, vaccine name,

vaccination administration date, lot number, and vaccine expiration date.

Before entering the CNMI, all travelers are encouraged to fill out the mandatory health declaration form at <https://governor.gov.mp/covid-19/travel> for faster processing.

All travelers are required to show up to their scheduled fifth-day test. Should any individual test positive during any test, they will be isolated at the government quarantine facility.

Although 70% of the CNMI's eligible population have already completed their COVID-19 vaccine series, CHCC and the task force still urge residents to practice the 3 Ws (wear a mask, wash your hands, watch your distance) when interacting with individuals whose vaccine status is undetermined.

"Our priority remains to ensure everyone is protected while allowing for a safe and quick process to enter the CNMI," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña. "Now that we are on the road to hit 80% of our eligible population being fully vaccinated, we should remain cautious while keeping the momentum

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**NMIMC sets session today**

The 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council will hold its 9th regular session today, July 27, 2021, at 10am at the Saipan and Northern Mariana Islands Municipal Council office at the Kiosku, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. (PR)

Proposed permanent hot mix asphalt plant on Rota

The Division of Environmental Quality will be holding a public hearing for the proposed permanent Hot Mix Asphalt Plant in Sinapalo, Rota. Radiocom Saipan Inc. is proposing to establish a permanent hot mix asphalt plant to meet the needs of future road projects on Rota.

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021, at 5pm at the Rota Superior Court. COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a mask at all times.

Written comments can be submitted in writing to the BECQ Rota Office or emailed to deq.air@becq.gov.mp. The draft Minor Source Permit can be reviewed at the BECQ Rota Office or accessed via the BECQ website at <http://deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID=15>. All written and oral comments received by DEQ will be included as part of the permit

application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Contact the BECQ-DEQ at 670-664-8500/8516 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about Radiocom's proposal. (PR)

CEDA increases direct loan amount to \$450,000

The Commonwealth Economic Development Authority has increased its Direct Loans to \$450,000 for business loans, primarily for new investments that increase economic activities related to tourism, attract new industries (i.e., technology, economic diversification), and/or improve the cost of living on Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

For more information, visit the CEDA Building on Beach Road in Oleai or call:

SAIPAN:

■ Fred Cruz: f.cruz@developcni.com, 670-234-6245 (ext. 305)

■ Abby Atalig: a.atalig@developcni.com (ext. 309)

■ Marie Coleman: m.coleman@developcni.com (ext. 307)

ROTA:

■ Elaine M. Manglona: (670) 532-9408 e.manglona@developcni.com

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HHS says that DHS' 'public charge rule' no longer in effect

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, has issued an informational bulletin to states' Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program agencies reaffirming that the 2019 Public Charge Final Rule—"Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds"—is no longer in effect and states should encourage their eligible immigrant populations to access public benefits related to health and housing.

Consistent with the Department of Homeland Security's

currently applicable 1999 guidance on public charge inadmissibility, accessing Medicaid benefits, for example, will usually have no bearing on anyone's immigration status. Last Thursday's informational bulletin to states emphasizes that the 2019 Rule is no longer in place and underscores DHS' call to action enlisting federal partners to ensure eligible immigrants are informed of these changes and their right to access public benefits like Medicaid, if applicable.

DHS will no longer consid-

er a person's receipt of Medicaid (except Medicaid for long-term institutionalization) as a part of a public charge determination when deciding immigration status.

"As President Biden made clear in his executive order restoring faith in our legal immigration systems, we must reduce fear and confusion among immigrant communities who rely on critical benefits that are available to them by law," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. "We invite states and our community partners to spread this mes-

sage far and wide: we are here to help and the public charge rule is no longer in effect. All our communities deserve the peace of mind that comes with having access to quality care."

CMS is reaching out to states and encouraging them to work with local partners and community groups to provide this important information so that individuals needing health care coverage are not afraid to apply for coverage through Medicaid and CHIP. While the public charge rule was never applicable to CHIP, CMS recognizes that misin-

formation and fear of immigration retribution likely kept some eligible families from seeking this health coverage for their children. It is critical that eligible immigrants and their families have access to necessary health care services, including those covered by Medicaid and CHIP, to keep their families safe and healthy.

"Health care is a right, not a privilege, and no one should be deterred from accessing the care they need out of fear. Accessing health coverage through Medicaid or CHIP will not risk immigration status," said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to making sure people have access to programs that keep them safe and healthy."

The bulletin ensures that Medicaid and CHIP agencies have a clear understanding that the DHS regulation—"Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds Final Rule"—has been vacated and DHS is now following the 1999 Field Guidance on Public Charge,

which is the policy in place prior to the 2019 Final Rule.

The 2019 Final Rule may have deterred immigrants from seeking for themselves and their families, including their children, critical government services that are legally available to them. The bulletin reminds states about their responsibilities to protect the rights of Medicaid applicants and their families.

States are prohibited from sharing a Medicaid applicant's or beneficiary's information for reasons outside of administering the state's Medicaid plan, such as determining eligibility or providing services. States also have an obligation to keep applicant information safeguarded and protected, and they are generally - PDF prohibited from sharing applicant information with DHS.

To read a copy of the full Informational Bulletin, visit: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib072221.pdf> - PDF. (PR)

IF YOU THINK YOU OR A DECEASED LOVED ONE WAS HARMED BY OPIOIDS LIKE HYDROCODONE, OXYCODONE, CODEINE OR ROXICODONE, OR IF YOU CARE FOR A CHILD EXPOSED TO THESE OPIOIDS IN THE WOMB, YOU CAN VOTE ON THE MALLINCKRODT BANKRUPTCY PLAN.



VOTING IS IMPORTANT. IT HELPS DETERMINE HOW OPIOID CLAIMS ARE TREATED. VOTE BY SEPTEMBER 3, 2021. SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT VOTING ARE SET FORTH BELOW IN THIS NOTICE AND AT MNKVOTE.COM.

VISIT MNKVOTE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Mallinckrodt is a manufacturer of opioid pain medication that filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in October 2020. On June 17, 2021, Mallinckrodt plc and its affiliates (the "Debtors") filed their Plan of Reorganization (the "Plan") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware and their related Disclosure Statement. You may have the right to vote on the Plan of Reorganization.

WHAT DOES THE PLAN PROVIDE?

Mallinckrodt's Plan channels claims based on harm or injury related to the Debtors' manufacturing of opioids and related activities to one or more opioid trusts. These opioid trusts will be established for the purpose of distributing money to individuals and corporate entities holding Opioid Claims and for abatement of the opioid crisis. If the Plan is approved by the Bankruptcy Court and you have an Opioid Claim, you will be entitled to assert your claim directly against the applicable opioid trust at a later time. **There is nothing you need to do right now to assert your Opioid Claim. Information regarding how to assert your Opioid Claim against an opioid trust will be made available at a later date.** The Plan, if approved, will forever prohibit any opioid claimants from asserting any Opioid Claim or seeking any money on account of any Opioid Claim against the Debtors, their officers and directors, or certain other parties specified in the Plan as the "Protected Parties."

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLAN?

Copies of the Plan and related documents, including the Disclosure Statement and a letter from the Official Committee of Opioid Related Claimants (a representative of Opioid Claimants in the Debtors' bankruptcy cases appointed by the Office of the United States Trustee) setting forth its position regarding the Plan can be obtained free of charge at MNKVote.com.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

Vote on the Plan:

If you are eligible to submit a vote, your vote must be submitted so it is received on or before September 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Detailed instructions on how to vote are available at MNKVote.com or by calling **877.467.1570 (Toll-Free)** or **347.817.4093 (International)**. If you do not follow the detailed instructions, your vote may be disqualified.

Object to the Plan:

If you disagree with the Plan, you can object to it in writing so it is received on or before September 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Objections not filed and served properly may not be considered by the Bankruptcy Court. Detailed instructions on how to file an objection are available at MNKVote.com or by calling **877.467.1570 (Toll-Free)** or **347.817.4093 (International)**.

If the Plan is confirmed, everyone with a Claim against or Interest in Mallinckrodt plc and its affiliates will be bound by the terms of the Plan regardless of whether or not they vote on the Plan or file a claim against the opioid trust.

WHEN IS THE HEARING?

The Bankruptcy Court has scheduled the hearing to consider confirmation of the Plan to be held on **September 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time** (the "Confirmation Hearing"). The Confirmation Hearing will take place before the Honorable John T. Dorsey, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the Bankruptcy Court, located at 824 Market Street, 5th Floor, Courtroom 5, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE MALLINCKRODT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Call: 877.467.1570 (Toll-Free)
347.817.4093 (International)

Write: Mallinckrodt Ballot Processing
c/o Prime Clerk LLC, One Grand Central Place
60 East 42nd Street, Suite 1440
New York, NY 10165

Visit: MNKVote.com

Email: mallinckrodtopioidclaimantinfo@akingump.com
- or - mallinckrodtinfo@primeclerk.com

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT PRIME CLERK, THE DEBTOR'S NOTICE AND CLAIMS AGENT, IS AUTHORIZED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT, AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE PLAN AND OTHER SOLICITATION MATERIALS, BUT MAY NOT ADVISE YOU AS TO WHETHER YOU SHOULD VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PLAN.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/OIT-134
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 09, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF MICROSOFT 365 LICENSING AND SELECT PLUS AGREEMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY.**
THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE
/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

JOB OPENING:
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EUCON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
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Duties:

1. Provide instruction at the Secondary School level in the following classes: Fundamental Math, Algebra I and Geometry.
2. Create lesson plans for high school mathematics classes that are appropriate for the age and abilities of the students in the class.
3. Evaluate student performances in class and on tests and provide feedback.
4. Assign special projects to students.
5. Communicate students' progress to parents, particularly regarding students who need tutoring or other extra assistance.
6. Provide appropriate resources and learning materials for students.
7. Identify varying teaching methods that work best for students who learn differently.
8. Develop and update curriculum for the classroom.
9. Conduct research.
10. Encourage creativity in students.
11. Ensure that computer equipment is functioning properly.
12. Maintain accurate records of students' progress in class and on examinations.
13. Keep order in the classroom and handle student behavior issues in accordance with school system policies.
14. Maintain an orderly classroom stocked with appropriate supplies.
15. Run the classroom within the allocated budget.
16. Keep all classroom work backed up.
17. Ensure that the internet in the classroom is used only for appropriate educational purposes.
18. Post grades and sends grade reports to parents as required by the school system.

Other requirements:
Baccalaureate Degree: Liberal Arts, Stemscience, Nursing or Engineering — ability to communicate and interact with students and parents — ability to encourage and motivate students — basic computer skills and ability to utilize Microsoft software —

Work Location: Eucon International School, Kulales Place, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai Mail Address: P.O. Box 500087, Saipan, MP 98950
E-Mail address: hr@eucon.edu
Tel# 1670 234 3203

Samoa's 1st female PM takes office after constitution crisis

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—More than three months after winning an election which sparked a constitutional crisis, Samoa's first female prime minister was finally able to take office on Tuesday.

A smiling Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa sat in the chair that her predecessor had been reluctant to relinquish after 22 years in power. She held her first Cabinet meeting, with

NMC to host free info session on July 28

Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free information session on Wednesday, July 28, at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Library in Building O. The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

In addition to the admission process, college personnel will talk about the new vaccination requirements for students taking in-person classes for the fall 2021 semester.

Info session participants will qualify to have their application fee and placement test fees waived for NMC's fall 2021 semester, a savings of about \$75. As part of NMC's

members of her FAST Party dressed in the distinctive red clothes that party members and supporters often wear.

Fiamē, 64, said they were ready to begin their work.

That could include a reset of the island nation's relationship with China. On the campaign trail, Fiamē had pledged to stop a \$100 million port development backed by Beijing, calling the project excessive for a

COVID-19 safety protocols, participants are asked to wear masks or face coverings when on campus.

The first day of classes will be on Aug. 16. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply now to register for courses and for financial aid. Currently, up to \$6,495 is available in federal financial aid to qualified students.

For more information about registering for classes or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

nation that's already heavily in debt to China.

After a knife-edge election result in April, Fiamē's predecessor Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi refused to concede defeat, despite several court rulings that went against him.

Tuilaepa had two powerful allies in the nation's head of state and the speaker, who were able to stall the transfer of power.

A bizarre scene played out in May when Fiamē and her party were locked out of the Parliament, with Tuilaepa claiming he was still in charge. Both sides accused each other of trying to stage a coup.

Fiamē and her party members took oaths and appointed ministers in a ceremony held under a tent in front of the locked Parliament.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Fiamē said that day was charged with emotion.

"It could have gone pear-shaped, but we were able to keep calm," she said. "We could have stormed the building and knocked down the doors, like in Washington, D.C. But we just sat and sang a few hymns, sang a prayer."

Last week, the nation's top court ruled the unusual swearing-in ceremony that day had been constitutional, and Tuilaepa

finally conceded.

Fiamē had previously served as Tuilaepa's deputy.

She said in the interview that she resigned after becoming concerned that Tuilaepa and fellow lawmakers had gone "off the rails" by trying to politically intervene in the nation's court system and judiciary.

"It was a classic case of power and corruption," Fiamē said. "We were slipping away from the rule of law, and I didn't like that. But most of party were happy to go along with it."


She said Tuilaepa never thought he could lose the election, particularly given his huge

parliamentary majority leading up to it.

"He was in shock and deep denial," she said.

Fiamē's election win is seen as a milestone not only for Samoa, which is conservative and Christian, but also for the South Pacific, which has had few female leaders.

Fiamē said she didn't think her gender had been a big issue in the election, and that her role in the traditional chiefly system was perhaps more important to voters. But she hoped that she might be a positive role model for Pacific women in other fields, showing what they could achieve.


OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB21-OPA-002
 SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: August 9, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
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 THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY – FRIDAY, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS).
 INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MICHELLE A. CAMACHO, OPA PROCUREMENT OFFICER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR E-MAIL TO mcamacho@opacmi.com.
 THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
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RFP21-CHCC-HIT-001
 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 9, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"CHCC LABORATORY INTERFACE NETWORK EXPANSION"
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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ21-CHCC-ELC-002
 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 9th, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)
"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY (IDIQ) INFORMATICS ANALYSIS"
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Opinion

Hafa Adair Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Vaccination requirements deservedly win the court battle against ignorance

A federal judge has ruled that Indiana University has every right to require coronavirus vaccinations before students may return to class. The ruling is based on precedent as well as common sense. It should boggle the minds of smart, thinking people everywhere why educational institutions shouldn't insist on defending the use of science and knowledge to combat the coronavirus—and the blatant ignorance associated with vaccine denial.

It never made sense that educational institutions can require vaccinations for polio, rubella, tetanus and other life-threatening diseases yet, somehow, the most deadly and contagious disease in our midst should be out of bounds for vaccination requirements. Hundreds of colleges and universities around the country are refusing to buckle under conservative anti-vaccine pressure, and a ruling by U.S. District Judge Damon Leitchy should dramatically boost their resolve.

Indiana University announced that, starting with the fall semester, all students, faculty and staff must be fully vaccinated before being allowed back on campus. Students who fail to do so would have their class registration and campus-facilities access cards canceled. Faculty and staff would lose their jobs. Working remotely without complying with the vaccine requirement “is not an option,” the university says. The university issued an application for religious, ethical and medical exemptions.

Eight students challenged the rule in court, but Leitchy denied their request for an injunction. The students' lawyer compared the vaccination policy to the Tuskegee study, in which Black men were deliberately exposed to syphilis. Leitchy, an appointee of then-President Donald Trump, rejected the comparison outright. Coronavirus vaccines protect people from disease rather than expose them to it. And the university's right to protect the health of students, faculty and staff outweighs any supposed right of students not to abide by vaccination requirements, he ruled.

The ruling is consistent with other court decisions favoring common-sense precautions over assertions that people should be free to do what they want, regardless of the consequences. In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis tried to impose a state law banning businesses from imposing vaccination mandates on their customers. The Florida law directly contradicted rules imposed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that required vaccinations as a condition for cruise ships to resume operations. A federal appeals panel ruled that Florida law cannot supersede federal government mandates when it comes to protecting public health.

That hasn't stopped Republican politicians from promot-

See **VACCINATION** on Next Page



Why the delta variant threatens to undermine the economic recovery

The U.S. economic recovery is being threatened by the COVID-19 delta variant. Increasing vaccination rates is the most important thing the U.S. can do to sustain the economy over the next few months. Beyond that, however, full recovery might require creating new vaccines against delta and other emerging variants.

U.S. stock markets and Treasury yields took big dips in recent days before rebounding. Despite the bounce-back, the volatility is evidence that investors are worried about the health of the recovery. It's not just markets, either—there are some concrete signs of economic weakness, such as a week with an unexpectedly high number of initial jobless claims. The lights aren't flashing red yet, but these are clear warning signs.

The obvious reason is the delta variant of COVID-19. This variant, which is both more infectious and more resistant to vaccines than previous versions of the virus, has become the dominant strain in the U.S. As a result, cases are rising again. If the U.S. ends up looking anything like the U.K., the country is in for another big wave of disease.

The economic risk isn't a renewed policy of lockdowns and mandatory social distancing; the American populace and government officials seem to have had their fill of such restrictive measures. But in fact, lockdowns were never a very big contributor to the economic devastation of 2020. Evidence on the timing and the strictness of government-mandated social distancing measures has shown that economic harm occurred pretty much regardless. Nor did state-level reopenings give economies much of a boost.

But if lockdowns weren't what hurt the economy, what was it? It was simply widespread fear of the virus. The existence of a deadly, highly contagious plague is a powerful reason to order from Amazon.com instead of going to a store, or to dine at home instead of going to a restaurant. Some people went out, heedless of the danger, but that paltry demand wasn't enough to sustain local service businesses, which laid off workers.

After the initial wave, when masking became commonplace and people began to understand the risks of what they were facing, economic activity wasn't so hobbled by fear, even during the disheartening fall and winter surge in late 2020 and early 2021. But it was only after vaccines became widely available that local economies really began to roar back to life.

Delta puts that rapid recovery under threat. Its high infectiousness means that even a fairly substantial percent of vaccinated Americans won't be enough to protect the unvaccinated from getting the virus. And America has quite a lot of unvaccinated people, thanks in part to a right-wing campaign against the (safe

By **NOAH SMITH**
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at [Noahpinion](https://www.noahpinion.com).



and highly effective) vaccines. Even an apparent recent positive shift in Fox News' tone toward vaccines is unlikely to counteract the corrosive effect of months of highly politicized anti-vaccination propaganda. And while some of those unvaccinated Americans will doubtless be as macho in their defiance of delta as they were with the original version of the coronavirus, some will deem it more prudent to avoid crowded indoor spaces just a little bit more.

Meanwhile, even vaccinated Americans may be hesitant to go out in the face of delta. The mRNA vaccines from Moderna Inc. and Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE significantly lower the risk of becoming infected with delta, and in the vast majority of cases they prevent the vaccinated from getting sick enough to be hospitalized or die. But they don't entirely eliminate the risks—there's a fairly substantial number of “breakthrough” infections, even among the fully vaccinated. And while that's rarely life-threatening, there remains the possibility of the protracted symptoms called “long COVID,” even among young people.

Perhaps if this were March 2020, this level of risk wouldn't be enough to deter Americans from going out to eat and shop. But they've had a year to adapt to the habits of social distancing, and many may just decide to extend their pandemic life a little while longer until the threat of delta has passed. To monitor whether this is happening, keep an eye on OpenTable restaurant reservation data. So far it doesn't look too bad, but if that changes, watch out:

What can anyone do to allay this possibility? As before, only defeating the virus through more comprehensive vaccination will bring the economy fully, reliably back. We need an intensified public information campaign—including the right-wing media—to make that happen. But in the longer term, confidence might improve with rapid government approval of vaccine boosters specifically designed for delta and other variants that may now be emerging. Ultimately, it may take several iterations of vaccination to clean COVID out of the U.S. economy.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We must all be lifeguards for democracy

One lifeguard stood guard over a Santa Cruz beach full of sunbathers and swimmers. With temps topping the 80s and the Pacific providing a cool, but not freezing, source of relief, the lifeguard had his hands full at once ensuring that basic beach etiquette was being followed and monitoring the surf for swimmers struggling against strong rip

currents. Unsurprisingly, he couldn't do both.

A small girl snuck into the waves while her parents were distracted with three other children. In a flash, the girl had been toppled by a machine-washer of a wave and was losing a battle against the water to regain access to air. Thankfully, an outlooker identified the increasingly dire condition of the girl and sprinted into the water. The lifeguard came soon after, but absent the action of this good Samaritan it's unclear whether anyone would have been there in time.

Our democracy, like the beach, requires that we all actively contribute to a healthy public environment, rather than leaning on single individuals and institutions to do the entirety of the hard work of good governance and civil discourse.

At the beach, some people feel that they're off the hook when it comes to looking out for others—that's the lifeguard's job, they say. In our democracy, many people feel that it's on politicians, the media and civic institutions to reinforce democratic norms—that's their duty, they say.

In both cases, there's a faulty assumption at work—that the appointed safeguards have the resources (financial, personnel, temporal) required to protect everyone. That assumption may have held true decades ago, but just as the seas have become rougher, the illiberal waves crashing on the foundation of our democracy have become stronger. The result is that we can no longer rely on these singular entities to do a job that requires collective action.

At the beach, a safer experience for all requires a little more engagement by all. Despite the lifeguard placing a "rip tide warning" flag at the beach entry, repeatedly making calls on his megaphone and rushing into the surf on numerous occasions to help struggling swimmers, most beachgoers seemed quite fine ignoring the rules he tried to set. Part of this is an understandable inclination toward freedom and liberty—you're at the beach, after all, let other people do as they please! That inclination, though, can only go so far. A girl nearly lost her life—a situation that only occurred because of failures by public and private parties alike.

On the public end, the most glaring issue was a lack of lifeguards. On the private end, a number of parties were arguably at fault, including parents too busy with other kids and bystanders

Think twice, Grandma, before you become the nanny

Saying no to babysitting your grandchildren might be one of the most distressing and complicated refusals in human relationships. But it's something more retirees should do instead of serving as primary child-care givers while parents are at work.

The number of grandparents who take care of their grandchildren (both as babysitters and as full-time parents) has been increasing steadily over the last 20 years. It's likely that post-pandemic life may turbocharge the need for grandparent care as more parents, especially mothers, return to the labor force and feel pressured to work more hours. Some may feel that there are still health concerns with daycare or having a non-relative watch their children.

While you love your children and grandchildren, and relish the idea of spending more time with them, stop and think of what you may be giving up by saying yes to a full-time role.

The biggest losses from taking care of grandchildren are what economists call opportunity, or indirect, costs. Filling your days with watching your grandchildren means you miss the chance to pursue other interests and interact with other adults. Even more important, at least financially, you forgo the opportunity to earn money. Let's say you took care of a child whose parents paid you; at \$20 an hour, you could earn \$400 a week, just for a part-time role. That money could be saved, or used to pay down debt or invest in your health. Even if you think you're financially secure, there could be high, unknown costs down the road as you age.

For those who retire prematurely to help out with babysitting, it's even worse. By working longer, you may get more Social Security credits to be eligible for benefits, contribute more to retirement accounts and potentially have more health benefits.

There may be health risks to consider, too. While there could be other benefits to interacting with children, such as keeping depression at bay and staying mentally sharp, grandparents spending time with young children could be exposed to more germs. A vaccinated grandparent could still contract COVID-19 if exposed to an unvaccinated child for long periods of time.

There are emotional costs to weigh as well. Taking care of children is rewarding, but it can be a grind. Grandparents may

By **KEVIN FRAZIER**

The Fulcrum



Kevin Frazier, a student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, runs The Oregon Way, a nonpartisan blog.

too fearful of litigation resulting from a rescue gone wrong.

In our democracy, a healthier democracy likewise is the responsibility of public and private stakeholders alike. For one, elected and public officials should be held to higher, more enforceable standards. A sample reform could be designating those standards and then empowering a bipartisan, independent agency to rigorously enforce those standards. Such a body would have been of immense value in Oregon during the state's last legislative session—at least three elected officials were the subjects of ethical investigations—each investigation took too long and involved too many partisan interests. A standing agency could have resolved each case in a standardized, transparent and efficient manner—resulting in better behavior among officials and more trust among the public.

But we should not hold our breath for elected officials suddenly improving their behavior. Voters and the public in general have to take ownership over our collective civic health. Self-restraint is in order: for example, reserving Facebook for photos of friends and family, rather than as a platform for partisan mud-slinging. But we can and should also do more to intervene on the behalf of others: inviting friends and family to attend city council meetings, encouraging community leaders to run for office, asking others to join a mutual pledge to volunteer more in the community.

Collective action (and restraint) is required for everyone to have a great day at the beach; same goes for everyone to access the liberty and freedoms created by a strong democracy.

By **TERESA GHILARDUCCI**

Bloomberg Opinion



Teresa Ghilarducci is the Schwartz Professor of Economics at the New School for Social Research. She's the co-author of Rescuing Retirement and a member of the board of directors of the Economic Policy Institute.

start to feel resentful or that they're being taken for granted if there isn't enough appreciation expressed.

And finally, it's important to consider the effects of grandparent care on grandchildren. One study shows that a child's health may suffer when grandparents are in charge as grandparents tend to allow children to eat more sweets and non-nutritious food than parents do. More systematic research is needed, though, to see what the health outcomes are when grandparents are helping with child rearing.

Ultimately, it comes down to balance and setting boundaries. If you decide to help out, be sure to set schedules from the beginning, such as certain days of the week for a set number of hours. Limiting the amount of time could prove to be the best arrangement of all.

VACCINATION

From Page 8

ing ignorance over fact. U.S. Rep. Jason Smith, R-Mo., tweeted on July 17 that the Biden administration "wants to knock down your door KGB-style to force people to get vaccinated. We must oppose forced vaccination!"

The choice of whether to be vaccinated remains with the individual. But vaccine deniers deserve to pay an increasingly high price for their recklessness—including being banned from cruise ships and universities.

By **MICHAEL MCGOUGH**

Los Angeles Times



Michael McGough is the Los Angeles Times' senior editorial writer, based in Washington, D.C.

The news that Pope Francis will reimpose limits on the celebration of the traditional Latin Mass will disappoint and even enrage devotees of that ritual. But traditionalist Catholics who appreciated the revival of the old form encouraged by Francis' predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, are caught in a couple of contradictions.

The first is that conservative Catholics at least in theory take a strong view of papal prerogatives, but here a so-called "liberal" pope is using his authority to rescind a directive by his "conservative" predecessor. Reversing a 2007 decision by Benedict, Francis said that priests who wish to celebrate the so-called Extraordinary Form of the Mass would need to obtain the permission of their bishop.

In what traditionalists will see as insult added to injury, Francis explained that he had concluded that concessions to supporters of the old Mass had been "exploited to widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences, and encourage disagreements that injure the Church, block her path and expose her to the peril of division."

If you think the pope has the final word, then you must accept the decision of the current one (unless you believe that Francis isn't the real pontiff, a truly fringe position). Otherwise you're purporting to be more Catholic than the pope.

There's another contradiction snaring traditionalists, whether they are superannuated cradle Catholics who grew up with the old rite or younger believers who find it aesthetically or spiritually edifying.

In allowing greater use of the old Mass, Benedict arguably was acting in the cause of pluralism. Benedict also granted a special status to Anglican converts to Catholicism who use a liturgy that contains some language derived from Anglican sources.

But to the extent that you see the "old Mass"—celebrated in Latin by a priest with his back to the congregation—as the "true" Mass, the less accepting you will be of the so-called Ordinary Form, celebrated in the vernacular and conceived of as a communal meal as well as a sacrifice.

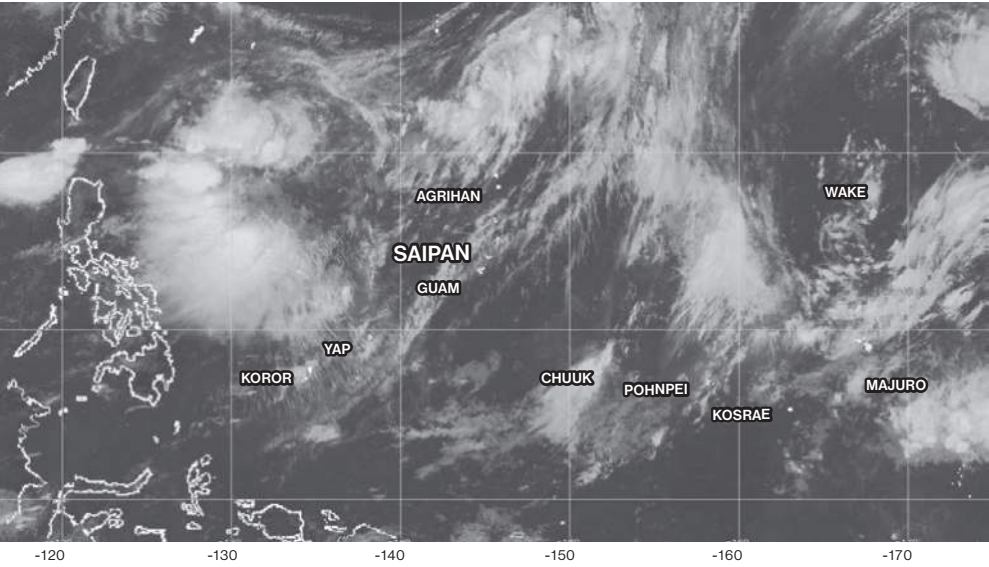
In their heart of hearts, I suspect most devotees of the old Mass would prefer it to be the only permissible form, as it was for centuries before reforms adopted after Vatican II. Accepting it as one option among others always seemed like a tactical position for traditionalists.

It will be difficult for critics of Francis' decision to argue credibly that what they want is a church that allows the Latin Mass in order to be comprehensive in the way worship is conducted and conceived—as Anglican Christianity long has been. (Episcopal bishops accept that some parishes will be "high church" with elaborate Catholic ceremonial and some "low church" with more sedate services.)

A better argument for the traditionalists would be that the Vatican accepts the traditional liturgies of Eastern churches that recognize the pope. But Francis obviously believes that more uniformity is necessary for Catholics of the Roman rite, his primary flock. It's just not the uniformity that traditionalists desire.

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|
| TODAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | | SUNDAY | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph. | | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. | | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. | | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. | | Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. | |
| 86° | 77° | 84° | 76° | 84° | 76° | 84° | 76° | 84° | 76° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 8:24 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Southwest winds and a few showers prevailed over the Marianas this morning. A relative dry period is expected the next few days with an return to wetter conditions by the end of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲▼°F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° | |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 77° | |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° | |
| Chuuk | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 81° | |
| Pohnpei | Sunny | 86° / 77° | |
| Kosrae | Sunny | 86° / 77° | |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 5:58 AM | 6:48 PM |
| Thursday | 5:58 AM | 6:48 PM |
| Friday | 5:58 AM | 6:47 PM |
| Saturday | 5:59 AM | 6:47 PM |
| Sunday | 5:59 AM | 6:47 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 9:33 AM | 10:07 PM |
| Thursday | - | 10:22 AM | 10:44 PM |
| Friday | - | 11:11 AM | 11:19 PM |
| Saturday | - | 11:58 AM | 11:55 PM |
| Sunday | - | 12:46 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲▼°F |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | 55° / 45° | |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | 93° / 77° | |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 90° / 82° | |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 76° | |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 64° / 63° | |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 92° / 72° | |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° | |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | 55° / 45° | |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 89° / 83° | |
| New York | Thunderstorms | 84° / 73° | |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 91° / 79° | |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 63° | |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 77° | |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 104° / 79° | |
| Salem | Thunderstorms | 81° / 70° | |
| San Francisco | Mostly Sunny | 67° / 58° | |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 91° / 77° | |
| Tokyo | Mostly Cloudy | 82° / 72° | |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 89° / 73° | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 5:03 AM | Low Tide | 1.15 | |
| 9:54 AM | High Tide | 1.89 | |
| 4:59 PM | Low Tide | 0.24 | |
| 11:42 PM | High Tide | 1.99 | |

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|---------------|---------------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 | 6:30am | 7:10am | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | UA174 | 4:50am | 5:31am | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117/183 | 6:30am | 8:50pm | 5 via Guam | UA184/174 | 9:50pm | 5:31am+1 | 5 via Guam |
| UA117/183 | 6:30am | 9:10pm | 3, 7 via Guam | | | | |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | |
| UA183 | 6:55pm | 8:50pm | 5 | UA184 | 9:50pm | 4:05am+1 | 5 |
| UA183 | 7:15pm | 9:10pm | 1, 3 | UA184 | 10:25pm | 4:20am+1 | 1, 3 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------------------------|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1301 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Daily | 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00AM | 11:30AM | Daily | 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Daily |
| 1303 | 1:30PM | 2:00PM | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri | 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1304 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Daily | 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | | 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 3101 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Daily | 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 3102 | 12:00AM | 12:30AM | Daily | 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |
| 3103 | 1:30PM | 3:00PM | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri | 1212 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 3104 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Daily | | | | |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily | 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Daily | 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily | 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily | 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | | | |
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | | | | |

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Suits, gowns, merchandise and more at Virtue Tailor Shop



BEA CABRERA

Virtue Tailor Shop in San Antonio has been in business for 11 years.

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Xu Hong Mei and her husband, Li Gian De, are a formidable team when it comes to suiting you up for that big office presentation or that milestone celebration.

As the duo behind the Virtue Tailor Shop in San Antonio, Saipan, they bring your sartorial ideas to life with sew-

ing experiences that go back to the garment factory era.

"I've been sewing half of my life and I take pride in my work. My husband is a pattern cutter expert and I do the sewing. Together, we have been serving the community since we opened shop in 2011," said Xu.

She said she started Virtue Tailor Shop with just tailoring 10 years ago, but has since then expanded to made-to-order



BEA CABRERA

Virtue Tailor Shop in San Antonio has been in business for 11 years.

curtains and sell shirts, caps, bags, blouses and dresses. They also have ready-made suits for those in a hurry—all U.S. quality and available in all sizes, "which is what the island needs because people here are of different ethnicities,



BEA CABRERA

Virtue Tailor Shop in San Antonio has been in business for 11 years.

simple sewing work like duplicating a pair of pants or blouse that is bought elsewhere.

"Customers bring clothing that they already own because they want to replicate the fit and size but in a different color or textile. ... We can do that. ... We have been in business for 11 years and in those years, we have made new and repeat clients. We appreciate the trust that people give us," Xu said.

with different body shapes and sizes. We then we make adjustments to make it the perfect fit for the customer," Xu said.

Virtue Tailor Shop is located beside the DPA Car Mart along Beach Road in San Antonio. They also accommodate

they sew is top notch. "We check every garment for any imperfection before we release it to the client. This way, the client is assured that every outfit is the perfect fit," she added.

According to Xu, whenever she sees a client step out of the fitting room trying on the clothes she sewed or see them out on special occasions wearing her clothes, she cannot help but feel happy. "I feel happy and very lucky to be able to be a part of every client's journey. Seeing them wear what we sewed for them is a good feeling, irreplaceable," she said.

"Our customers also like that our shop is clean and organized always. You will not see used textile cuts and pattern lying around the floor or sewing equipment that is scattered. A clean shop always makes a good and lasting impression and we keep our shop that way always. We thank the community for patronizing us all these years and the only thing we can give back is to do our best always," she added.

Virtue Tailor Shop is open from Monday to Saturday, from 9:30am to 8:30pm.



NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION:

CLIENT ADVOCATE

PAY-LEVEL:

P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10

REPORTS TO:

PROGRAM MANAGER

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

AUGUST 9, 2021

OVERVIEW:

This is a non-exempt position for non-legal advocacy on behalf of clients with disabilities primarily on Saipan and should participate in general outreach activities in the community. The Client Advocate reports to the Program Manager and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures with some latitude for independent action.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ An Associate Degree (A.A. or A.S.) in any related field or no less than 60 credit hours from a post-secondary school; and
- ✓ Two (2) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of the work in protection and advocacy systems or other related fields.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278 [tty] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. Deadline for submission of application will be August 9, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

NMPASI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



U.S. Probation Office

Districts of Guam and
the Northern Mariana Islands



NOTICE OF SOLICITATION TREATMENT SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SEX OFFENDERS FOR FEDERAL DEFENDANTS AND OFFENDERS

The U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Office, Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, intends to procure substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment services for federal defendants and offenders using Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). Separate BPAs will be issued for Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and required services may include the following: **urine collection testing and reporting; intake and assessment; counseling; psychological evaluations; medication; and therapy.**

Interested vendors must respond on time and clearly show the following: (1) they can provide services; (2) such services will be provided by certified, licensed professionals with experience in such treatment; and (3) prices of such treatment shall be as low or lower than those charged to the vendor's most favored customer for comparable quantities under similar terms and conditions.

Interested vendors must contact Melinda Santos, U.S. Probation Officer Specialist, no later than Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at the following address:

U.S. Probation Office
Districts of Guam and the NMI, 2nd Floor U.S. Courthouse,
520 West Soledad Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Email: Melinda_Santos@gup.uscourts.gov
Telephone: (671) 969-4614
Facsimile: (671) 969-4601
Website: www.gup.uscourts.gov

Nation

VA requires COVID-19 vaccination for health care workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Department of Veterans Affairs on Monday became the first major federal agency to require health care workers to get COVID-19 vaccines, as the aggressive delta variant spreads across the nation and some communities report troubling

increases in hospitalizations among unvaccinated people.

The VA's move came on a day when nearly 60 leading medical and health care organizations issued a call for health care facilities to require their workers to get vaccinated. No federal law stands in the way of employers requiring vaccinations, but like mask mandates,

the issue has been politicized in a society that's divided on matters of public health.

"With more than 300 million doses administered in the United States and nearly 4 billion doses administered worldwide, we know the vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19," Dr. Susan

Bailey, immediate past president of the American Medical Association, said in a statement. "Increased vaccinations among health care personnel will not only reduce the spread of COVID-19 but also reduce the harmful toll this virus is taking within the health care workforce and those we are striving to serve."

Biden says US combat mission in Iraq to conclude by year end

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden said Monday the U.S. combat mission in Iraq will conclude by the end of the year, an announcement that reflects the reality on the ground more than a major shift in U.S. policy.

Even before Biden took office, the main U.S. focus has

been assisting Iraqi forces, not fighting on their behalf. And Biden did not say if he planned to reduce the number of troops in Iraq, now about 2,500.

The announcement comes on the heels of Biden's decision to withdraw fully from Afghanistan nearly 20 years after the U.S. launched that

war in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Together, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have heavily taxed the U.S. military and kept it from devoting more attention to a rising China, which the Biden administration calls the biggest long-term security challenge.

ACROSS THE NATION

Senators, White House in talks to finish infrastructure bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senators and the White House were locked in intense negotiations Monday to salvage a bipartisan infrastructure deal, with pressure mounting on all sides to wrap up talks and show progress on President Joe Biden's top priority. Despite weeks of closed-door discussions, senators from the bipartisan group blew past a Monday deadline set for agreement on the nearly \$1 trillion package. Instead they hit serious roadblocks over how much would be spent on public transit and water infrastructure and whether the new spending on roads, bridges, broadband

and other projects would be required to meet federal wage requirements for workers. They're also at odds over drawing on COVID-19 funds to help pay for it. Republican negotiator Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, who took the lead in key talks with a top White House aide, insisted the bipartisan group was "making progress." "This is heading in the right direction," Portman told reporters at the Capitol. "It's a big, complicated bill."

3rd person found dead after Colorado flooding, mudslides

RUSTIC, Colo. (AP)—Authorities have recovered the body of a third person who died during flooding and mudslides in an area of north-

ern Colorado that was burned by a massive wildfire. One person is still missing. The Larimer County Sheriff's Office was notified Monday that a man's body was found in the Poudre River, a day after another man was found dead in the waterway. On Tuesday, a woman's body was found near the small community of Rustic, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) northwest of Denver, shortly after a mudslide sent a wave of debris into scenic, winding Poudre Canyon. "Our deepest sympathies go out to the family who tragically lost four members in last week's flood," Sheriff Justin Smith said. Six homes were destroyed and another was damaged, all on the same road, the sheriff's office said.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday August 4, 2021 | 5:00 PM
Queens Club, Kensington Hotel
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 07/28/2021 Zoning Board Meeting minutes.
5. Public Comments (*not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings*)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8035** – Tian Chi Corp. is proposing to renovate and occupy an existing 1-storey structure measuring 50' (L) x 40' (W) x 9'5" (H) for its Gas Station, Light Repair "Carwash" Use. The applicant will also construct an overhead structure measuring 50' (L) x 40' (W) x 9'5" (H) for its Bay Service Area. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 006 H 45 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-7873** – Saipan Horse Course, LLC is proposing to occupy a portion of a undivided parcel for its "Amusement Outdoor, Intensive" Use for a Horse Back Riding Trail that will start from the proposed lot leading to Marine Beach and back. The applicant will be occupying a lot with existing structures that includes a Horse Barn Stall measuring 76' (L) x 39' (W) x 16' (H), a Horse Training Ground and a Reception and Living Quarter Building. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 113 E 03 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Rural.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-8063** – Saipan Cares for Animals, Rescue and Outreach Center is proposing to construct a building measuring 56' (L) x 38'4" (W) x 10'3" (H) for its Office Use and Veterinary Clinic or Hospital Use and will also be constructing twenty-nine (29) outdoor Dog Kennels. This use is classified as "Veterinary Clinic or Hospital" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. E.A. 753-2 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Old Business

1. Zoning Office Building Renovations
2. Garapan Revitalization Project
3. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Act i. Regulations
4. Administrator's Contract Renewal
5. Board Compensation

D. Executive Session

E. Miscellaneous

1. Administrator's Updates
2. Permit & Enforcement Report

F. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for Saipan Cares for Animals, Rescue & Outreach Center

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Cares for Animals, Rescue & Outreach Center is proposing to construct a newly built structure measuring **56' (L) x 38'4" (W) x 10'3" (H)** for its Office Use and Veterinary Clinic or Hospital Use and will also be constructing **twenty-nine (29)** outdoor Dog Kennels. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. E.A 753-2 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 4, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Queens Club, Kensington Hotel

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 3rd, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for Saipan Horse Course, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Horse Course, LLC is proposing to occupy a Lot for its Amusement Outdoor, Intensive Use for a Horse Back Riding Trail. The trail will start from the proposed lot, leading to Marine Beach and back. The applicant will be occupying a lot with existing structures that includes a Horse Barn Stall measuring **76' (L) x 39' (W) x 16' (H)**, a Horse Training Ground and a Reception and Living Quarter Building. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 113 E 03 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Rural.

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for Tian Chi Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Tian Chi Corp. is proposing to renovate and occupy and existing 1-storey structure measuring **50' (L) x 40' (W) x 9'5" (H)** for its Gas Station, Light Repair "Carwash" Use. The applicant will also construct an overhead structure measuring **50' (L) x 40' (W) x 9'5" (H)** for its Bay Service Area. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 006 H 45 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BIDS ITB No.: ITB21-GOV-132

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 27, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutter and Doors at the Tinian Youth Center and Tinian Office on Aging

The project package will be available and may be obtained at the Hazard Mitigation Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan beginning Wednesday, July 28, 2021, during business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) or electronic mail (request to Victor Cabrera; vacabrera@omb.gov.mp)

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

David DLG Atalig
Secretary of Finance



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BIDS ITB21-GOV-143

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutter and Doors at the Office on Aging in Saipan

The project package will be available and may be obtained at the Hazard Mitigation Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan beginning Wednesday, July 28, 2021, during business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) or electronic mail (request to Tiana Reyes; treyes@omb.gov.mp)

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

David DLG Atalig
Secretary of Finance



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A 1.5 MW TRAILER MOUNTED DIESEL GENERATING SET WITH ENCLOSURE FOR THE CUC POWER PLANT NO. 3, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than July 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC's Water Utility Coordinator, Yvonne C. Ogomoro via email address yvonne.ogomoro@cucgov.org, CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-030

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR AGINGAN WWTP IMPROVEMENTS (S20-080)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements in Agingan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference followed by site visits** will be held on **July 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-030, A&E Design Services for Agingan WWTP Improvements", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 2, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Asia

Philippine leader unabashedly threatens to kill drug dealers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte unabashedly renewed his threat to kill drug dealers in his final state of the nation speech on Monday, while defending his nonconfrontational approach in the country's territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea.

Duterte, 76, who won a six-year presidential term in 2016, is winding down his oft-tumultuous presidency amid a raging pandemic, a battered economy and a legacy overshadowed by his deadly campaign against illegal drugs that has set off complaints of mass murder before the International Criminal Court.

While many expected him to focus on ways to combat the coronavirus, which

has devastated the economy and worsened hunger and poverty, Duterte instead devoted most of a rambling, nearly three-hour televised speech to non-pandemic topics he has addressed repeatedly in the past.

Duterte reiterated his threat to kill drug dealers, explaining it is tougher to fight criminals "the legal way," while daring the International Criminal Court to record his remarks.

"I would never deny and the ICC can record it: Those who destroy my country, I will kill you. And those who destroy the young people of our country, I will kill you," Duterte said. "I will really



Duterte

bring you down because I love my country."

"You can do it the legal way, but it would take you months and years," Duterte told an audience of legislators, Cabinet members

and foreign diplomats.

Duterte and police officials have denied condoning extrajudicial killings, but he has repeatedly threatened to kill suspects in his public speeches. More than 6,000 mostly petty suspects have been killed during police drug raids. In addition, a large number have also been gunned down by motorcycle-riding assassins who human rights groups suspect are linked to law enforcement.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani army: Afghan soldiers flee attack, cross border

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Dozens of Afghan soldiers slipped across the border into northwestern Pakistan, the Pakistani army said Monday. The Afghan troops were fleeing after their border post was overrun, apparently by the Taliban. The statement said 46 members of the Afghan forces, including five officers, crossed the border late Sunday near the Pakistani border town of Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The Afghan soldiers "have been provided food, shelter and necessary medical care as per established military norms," Pakistani army said, adding that it had informed Afghan authorities of the development. The Afghan government denied Monday its troops crossed into Pakistan. "This issue is not true. No Afghan military personnel have taken refuge in Pakistan, the sensitivity that all Afghans have against Pakistan and especially our military, is clear to all," said Gen. Ajmal Omer Shinwari, spokesman for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

Tropical storm to bring rain, wind, waves to northeast Japan

ICHINOMIYA, Japan (AP)—A tropical storm heading toward northeastern Japan is forecast to bring heavy rain, strong winds and high waves to the Tokyo region and has already affected some Olym-

pics events. The Japan Meteorological Agency predicted Nepartak would bring stormy weather and high waves to northeastern Japan in advance of its landfall around midday Wednesday north of the capital region. The tropical storm had winds of 72 kilometers per hour (44.7 mph) around midday Tuesday off Chiba on Japan's central-eastern coast and is moving slowly north-northwest the agency said. It forecast the storm would maintain its current strength through the day but would weaken before making landfall around midday Wednesday near the city of Akita, about 570 kilometers (340 miles) northeast of Tokyo. Storm and high wave warnings were issued for Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures.

Koreas restore communication channels, agree to improve ties

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The leaders of North and South Korea restored suspended communication channels between them and agreed to improve ties, both governments said Tuesday, amid a 2 ½ year-stalemate in U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at stripping North Korea of its nuclear weapons. While the move could certainly help ease animosities on the Korean Peninsula, it's unclear whether Pyongyang would go as far as to revive previous vigorous cooperation programs with Seoul and get back to the nuclear talks with Washington.

Some experts say Kim merely intends to burnish his international image or use South Korea as leverage ahead of a potential resumption of talks with the U.S. Since April, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un exchanged personal letters several times and decided to normalize the cross-border communication channels as a first step toward improving relations, Moon's office said.

Malaysian contract doctors walk out to seek fairer treatment

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Hundreds of contract doctors walked off their jobs in Malaysian government hospitals on Monday, demanding fairer treatment for more than 20,000 physicians who work without permanent positions and play a key role in the fight against the country's worsening coronavirus pandemic. Since 2016, new medical school graduates practicing under supervision in hospitals are given temporary contracts rather than being employed permanently due to an influx of medical students. These contract doctors face an uncertain career path, earn less than permanent doctors and receive few benefits. Clad in black and wearing face masks, the doctors protested silently in hospitals nationwide, according to live coverage on social media. Some carried placards saying "We want career security" and "Equal pay, equal rights, equal opportunities."

World

UN: COVID hitting poor and conflict nations worse in 2021



Paska Itwari Bada, the young mother of five children, shares a meal with her family at her Juba, South Sudan home, Thursday, May 27, 2021.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The COVID-19 pandemic is hitting conflict-ridden and impoverished countries much worse this year than in 2020, with many facing higher caseloads and rising deaths, the U.N.'s deputy humanitarian chief warned Monday.

Ramesh Rajasingham said in a closed briefing to the U.N. Security Council that these surges are being fueled by a lack of access to vaccines, an easing of public health measures, increased social mixing, and the spread of the delta variant to at least 124 countries, including 17 fragile and conflict-affected nations.

"This pandemic is far from over," he said. "We are arguably in one of the most dangerous periods for the poorest people on our planet."

In his briefing obtained by The Associated Press, Rajasingham said that so far in 2021 almost three-quarters of countries needing humanitarian aid have recorded more cases or deaths than in all of 2020. And in over one-third of those countries, he

added, "at least three times more cases or deaths have been recorded this year compared to last."

He called these numbers "just the tip of the iceberg," saying that testing capabilities in many of these countries are inadequate so the U.N. doesn't have "a true sense of the actual scale of the crisis."

"Today, we have a two-track pandemic—one trajectory for the rich world, and one for the poor—characterized by dramatic differences in vaccine availability, infection rates and the ability to provide policy support," he said.

Rajasingham urged the international community to respond by ensuring that the poorest countries have access to protective equipment, oxygen, testing kits and other critical supplies. To tackle the pandemic and the worsening impact on the poorest people, he said, the global humanitarian system is appealing for \$36 billion to help 161 million people.

Rajasingham said fragile and conflict-affected countries also must have access to

vaccines. To date, he said, 80 million vaccine doses have been delivered to countries where the U.N. has appealed for humanitarian assistance.

The World Health Organization has set a goal of vaccinating 10% of the population of every country by September, he said. Rajasingham said to meet that goal, the U.N. estimates countries needing humanitarian assistance will require 162 million additional doses.

The U.N. anticipates more vaccine doses becoming available in the second half of 2021, but Rajasingham said vaccines alone are not enough.

He urged international support to enable the delivery of vaccines in impoverished and conflict-torn countries before their expiration date, saying this must include recruiting and training health workers and putting in place logistics and security to reach remote locations and people living in regions controlled by armed groups.

"Vaccine doses are essentially useless without effective delivery systems," he said.

Tunisia president suspends parliament, fires PM

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Troops surrounded Tunisia's parliament and blocked its speaker from entering Monday after the president suspended the legislature and fired the prime minister and other top members of government, sparking concerns for the North African country's young democracy at home and abroad.

In the face of nationwide protests over Tunisia's eco-

nomics troubles and the government's handling of the coronavirus crisis, President Kais Saied decided late Sunday to dismiss the officials, including the justice and defense ministers.

He announced a series of other measures Monday, including a nationwide curfew from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. for one month and a ban on gatherings of more than three people in public places. He denied allegations that he was

fomenting a coup d'état.

Some demonstrators cheered the firings, shouting with joy and waving Tunisian flags.

But others accused the president of a power grab, and the country's overseas allies expressed concern that it might be descending again into autocracy. In a move sure to fuel those worries, police raided the offices of broadcaster Al-Jazeera and ordered it shut down.

Life & Style

Britney Spears' new lawyer files to remove father's control

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' new attorney petitioned Monday to oust her father from the conservatorship that has controlled her life and money for 13 years and replace him with a professional accountant.

Matthew Rosengart said in documents filed in Los Angeles Superior court that the current legal arrangement "has grown increasingly toxic and is simply no longer tenable."

He proposed that James Spears be replaced with CPA

Jason Rubin as conservator of the pop star's estate, which documents say equates to \$2.7 million in cash and more than \$57 million in assets.

Rosengart said in the filing that before he sought to end the conservatorship, he was first addressing "the most pressing issue facing Ms. Spears: removing Mr. Spears as conservator of the estate."

"Any father who genuinely

loves his daughter and has her best interests at heart should willingly step aside in favor of the highly respected professional fiduciary nominated here," Rosengart said in the documents.

Lynne Spears, Britney's mother and James' ex-wife, said in a declaration supporting Rosengart's filing that his "microscopic control" over her health care and business deci-



Spears

Kanye West living in Atlanta stadium to work on new album

Kanye West has been living inside an Atlanta stadium while working on his new album.

A representative for the performer said Monday that West planned to remain inside Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium while working to complete "Donda," his 10th studio album. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

West held a massive listening session at the stadium

Thursday and was seen on social media attending a soccer match over the weekend.

"Donda," which was slated to release last Friday, is now due Aug. 6.

The Grammy winner's album was named after his mother, Donda West, who died at the age of 58 following plastic surgery complications in 2007.

West unveiled "Donda" in front of a sold-out crowd at the venue after he announced two days before that the first public

listen of his highly-anticipated album would take place. He barely said a word while introducing his new music during the event, which brought out several big names including Rick Ross, Khloe Kardashian and his estranged wife Kim Kardashian West, who showed up in a red jumpsuit with their kids.

West's new project is a follow up to his 2019 gospel-themed album "Jesus is King," which won a Grammy for best contemporary Christian album.

Singer Pink backs beach handball team on 'sexist' clothing

HELSINKI (AP)—U.S. pop singer Pink has offered to pay a fine given to the Norwegian female beach handball team for wearing shorts instead of the required bikini bottoms.

Pink said she was "very proud" of the team for protesting against the rule that prevented them from wearing shorts like their male

counterparts.

In a tweet posted on Sunday, Pink said: "The European handball federation SHOULD BE FINED FOR SEXISM. Good on ya, ladies." She added that "I'll be happy to pay your fines for you. Keep it up."

At the European Beach Handball Championships in Bulgaria last



Pink

week, Norway's female team was fined 1,500 euros (\$1,770) for what the European federation called improper clothing and "a breach of clothing regulations." The rules stipulate that women must wear bikini bottoms while men wear shorts.

The Norwegian Handball Federation didn't contest the decision, seen by the Norwegian team and several others as unfair, and announced earlier that it was ready to pay the fine.

sions in a key period in 2018 and 2019 was especially damaging.

"Such scrutiny is exhausting and terrifying, like living in custody," Lynne Spears said.

James Spears stepped down as the so-called conservator of the person for his daughter in 2019, ceding control of her life

decisions and health care to court-appointed professional Jodie Montgomery while maintaining control of her finances.

A message sent seeking comment from James Spears and his legal team was not immediately returned. But at a July 14 hearing, his attorney

Vivian Thoreen said he would not be stepping down and he has only ever been motivated by his daughter's best interests.

Thoreen said Britney Spears had many inaccurate beliefs, among them that "her father is responsible for all the bad things that have happened to her."

Tucker Carlson called 'worst human' at Montana fishing shop

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—A video showing a Montana man confronting Tucker Carlson is circulating widely on social media after the man called the Fox News host "the worst human being known to mankind."

The video posted Friday shows Dan Bailey talking closely to Carlson inside a Montana fly fishing shop. Carlson can be heard in the video saying, "I appreciate that" and "I'm not going to debate."

In a social media post with the video, Bailey accused

Carlson of spreading misinformation about COVID-19 vaccinations and supporting extreme racism.

A Fox News spokesperson said in a statement that Bailey had ambushed the "Tucker Carlson Tonight" host while he was in the Livingston store with his family, calling it "inexcusable."

"No public figure should be accosted regardless of their political persuasion or beliefs simply due to the intolerance of another point of view," the



Carlson

statement says.

On his program, Carlson has repeatedly questioned the COVID-19 vaccine, even as other Fox News hosts have recently encouraged viewers to get vaccinated. Carlson has previously refused to respond when asked if he is vaccinated.

Last week, he did say that "we're not saying there is no benefit to the vaccine. ... We never encouraged anyone to take or not to take the vaccine. Obviously, we're not doctors."

The fly fishing store where the confrontation occurred said workers "treat every customer equally and respectfully."

Ishiguro, Powers among contenders for fiction's Booker Prize

LONDON (AP)—Nobel laureate Kazuo Ishiguro and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Powers are among 13 authors in the running for the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction.

Britain's Ishiguro, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2017, is on the longlist announced Tuesday for the 50,000-pound (\$69,000) prize with "Klara and the Sun," a novel about love and humanity narrated by a solar-powered android. It is the fourth Booker nomination for Ishiguro, who won the prize in 1989 for "The Remains of the Day."

American author Powers is nominated for "Bewilderment," about an astrobiologist and his neurodivergent son. Powers won the Pulitzer for fiction in 2019 for eco-epic "The Overstory," which was also a Booker Prize finalist.

Other previous Booker contenders on this year's list include South Africa's Damon Galgut for his story of racism and reckoning, "The Promise"; British writer Sunjeev Sahota for "China Room," which travels between England and India; and Canada's Mary Lawson for her tale of life in a northern town,

"A Town Called Solace."

Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize has a reputation for transforming writers' careers, and was originally open to British, Irish and Commonwealth writers. Eligibility was expanded in 2014 to all novels in English published in the U.K.

Two American first novels are among this year's contenders: Patricia Lockwood's social media-saturated story "No One is Talking About This" and Nathan Harris' best-seller "The Sweetness of Water," set in the U.S. South at the end of the Civil War.

Husband's pantyhose fixation bothers wife

DEAR ABBY: I'm having difficulty understanding my husband's obsession with pantyhose. When we met 10 years ago, he explained to me during a phone conversation that he liked wearing pantyhose and nylon stockings. He's not an outward cross-dresser. His obsession is limited to simply wearing nylon. I accepted his eccentricities and we have shared a wonderful 10 years together.

I love him more than you can imagine. I admire his honesty with me from the beginning of our relationship. I mean, how many men would tell an almost complete stranger he's hoping to date that he enjoys wearing nylons? I have respected his honesty, but as of late, his obsession is bothering me. What do I do?

ANNOYED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ANNOYED: You can adjust your thinking for the purpose of not destroying an otherwise wonderful 10-year relationship. Some men, like your husband, enjoy the sensation of nylon against their skin. As you probably already know, it doesn't affect their intimate relationship with their partners. The person with the "obsession" may be you, not him. If this is your husband's only "snag," thank your higher power and concentrate on all the things you love about him that make him unique.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I enjoy watching sporting events that I record

earlier in the day or a day or so before. I don't like knowing the outcome of the event before I watch, so I'm careful not to watch TV or listen to the radio before playing back the recorded event. My husband (of 36 years) knows I feel this way, but sometimes he forgets and tells me the outcome.

Our son, who is 13, became aware of the results of a game, and I asked him (twice) to please keep it to himself. He told me anyway, in front of my husband. I was irritated and asked him why he had intentionally ruined the event. My husband said I need to "get Zen" and didn't think it was a big deal. Is my request so ridiculous that they should be fine with disregarding it?

WAITING TO WATCH

DEAR WAITING: Of course not. Your 13-year-old son was being a brat, and your husband allowed him to disrespect your wishes. What you were asking for is no different than not wanting to know the end of a movie or the outcome of an awards show. It's time you and your hubby had a serious discussion about what happened so it won't happen again. And your kid should be told that if he does it again, there will be repercussions.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I never thought I would be writing to you, but I have a neighbor who lets her young daughter play outside, close to the street and scream at the top of her lungs. When I ran out a

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



couple of times to see if she was OK, the mom told me to stop being so "nosy." Every night when I hear her screaming, I'm afraid she's in some type of danger. What should I do?

CONCERNED NEIGHBOR

DEAR CONCERNED NEIGHBOR: What you should do is remember that when children play outside, they use their outside voices, which includes screaming, and do as the neighbor told you. Only worry if you hear sirens.

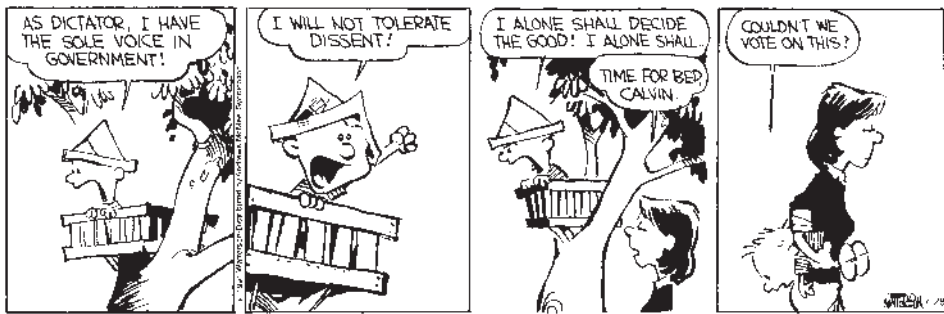
■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

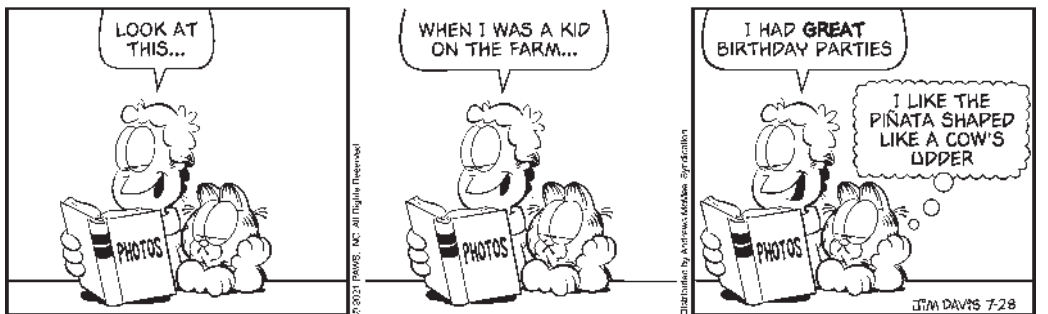
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



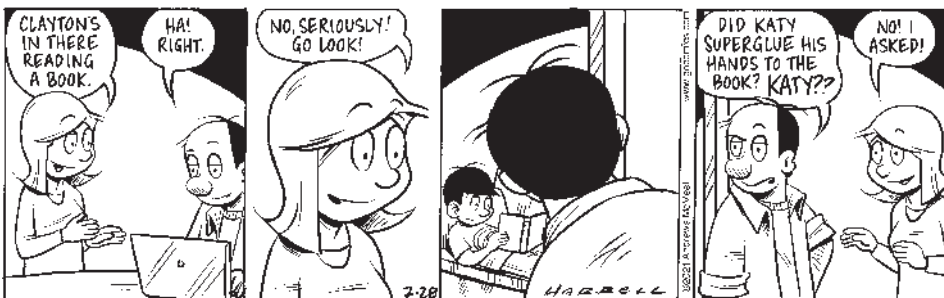
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vipers
5 Short do
8 Notion
12 Fall into a soft chair
13 Carnival city
14 Fashion line?
15 "The Color of Money" setting
17 Wash
18 Lukewarm
19 Swaps
21 Coagulate
24 Little rascal
25 Hourly pay
28 Commotion
30 — pro nobis
33 Scrape (out)
34 March honoree, for short
35 Reaction to fireworks
36 Prohibit
37 Furnace fuel

DOWN

1 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
2 — gin fizz
3 Inside info
4 Do a film editor's job
5 Bikini half
6 Peanut product
7 Piece of hardware
8 Imam's faith
9 Ryan Reynolds title role of 2016
10 Roof overhang
11 Iowa city
16 "Good" cholesterol
20 Mob scene
22 "Beetle Bailey" dog
23 November birthstone
25 Spider's creation
26 Rap sheet abbr.
27 DNA source
29 Surrealist Salvador
31 King in Cannes
32 Sushi fish
34 Rabbit's tail
38 Decathlon event
40 Road runners
42 Business card no.
43 Tabula —
44 K thru 12
45 Duel tool
47 Ankara resident
48 Slithery
49 Being, to Brutus
52 Eggs
53 Crew tool

Solution time: 23 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
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| S | L | A | B | T | E | A | T | A | L | E |
| G | O | G | O | A | N | I | B | E | I | |
| I | W | O | I | M | E | R | C | L | A | D |
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| H | O | P | C | N | R | O | L | L | | |
| O | R | E | M | T | H | R | E | E | W | A |
| O | E | R | P | R | C | L | E | R | O | E |
| H | O | U | R | L | A | N | E | P | E | N |
| S | U | L | A | G | S | M | E | T | | |
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| H | E | N | E | E | S | P | O | A | H | U |
| B | R | A | J | A | M | S | S | H | O | I |

Yesterday's answer 7-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dustin Milligan, 36; Noma Dumezweni, 52; Jim Davis, 76; Peter Cullen, 80.

Happy Birthday: Sign up for interesting courses to expand your mind, skills and awareness. Strive for perfection, and engage in practices that will help you advance. Do your research and leave nothing to chance. Preparation will be the key to turning this year from mundane to sublime. Choose your destiny. Take a deep breath, gain control and take a leap forward. Your numbers are 5, 18, 23, 28, 33, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for new possibilities. An adventure will lift your spirits and get you excited about something you've never experienced. Be the one to initiate change; channel your energy, and you'll discover something that motivates you. Make freedom and happiness your goals. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't leave anything to chance. Size up situations, ask questions and direct your energy to suit your needs. A physical change will boost your morale and give you added confidence to set your pace and follow your heart. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Live and learn. Let the experience prompt better decisions regarding health, love and matters that affect your position or reputation. Don't let outside influences interfere with your long-term goals. Say no to indulgent situations or behavior. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself. A situation will not be what you think, and responding too quickly will result in regret. Slow down, observe,

and concentrate on personal gains, self-improvement and happiness. Get along with friends and relatives. Avoid controversy. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for a money-making opportunity; do whatever it takes to make it happen. It's up to you to make decisions to help you achieve the lifestyle you want to live. Look, and you will discover a practical way to excel. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Press on courageously. Seize the moment, embrace exciting prospects and physically engage in putting what you want into play. Don't be afraid to nudge anyone who is holding you back. A passionate attitude will help you get your way. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Speak up and share your thoughts. Take part in events that address matters that concern you. Don't hesitate to become a spokesperson or act on behalf of an organization that shares your beliefs. Your actions and words will attract support. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Observation is favored. Listen, gather information, formulate a plan and prepare to make adjustments that free you from situations that are standing between you and what you want to achieve. Create opportunities instead of waiting for them to come to you. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick close to home. Put time, effort and money into making your surroundings fit your lifestyle. Change begins with you, and a challenge will spark enthusiasm to turn your dream into a reality. Say no to anyone who inter-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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feres with your plans. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your guard up, mind open and emotions under control. You have plenty to gain if you focus more on what you are trying to achieve and less on what others do or say. Don't let anyone make decisions for you. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Set goals and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results you achieve. Discuss concerns with individuals who have insight into something you want to pursue. Consider forming partnerships and signing deals. Do your part, and rewards will follow. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Assess your health, financial situation and personal life, and you'll come up with a plan that will help you tweak whatever isn't working for you anymore. A lifestyle change will promote better relationships with loved ones. ***

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, appealing and compassionate. You are adaptable and generous. * Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. *** Focus and you'll reach your goals. **** Aim high; start new projects. ***** Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 3 | | | 7 | 4 | |
| | 6 | | | | 8 | | | | 2 |
| 3 | | | | | 1 | | | | 5 |
| 7 | | | | | 9 | | | | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | | | | | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | 4 |
| 8 | | | | 9 | | | | | 7 |
| 6 | | | | 2 | | | | 3 | |
| | 9 | 7 | | | 4 | 8 | | | |

Difficulty Level ***

7/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 |

Difficulty Level **

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MARY WILSON (1944-2021)

Solution: 11 letters

T T R T B G D A M U S I C E Y
F H E A R I N R R O S S C D R
I E E R F E R I R E T N R D R
Y P R S R A C D N S E O T I U
C R P R U E E N S R G V W A H
S I R I E P L L O O O N S N N
L M N E S R R L A C N M O A I
R E A D B S F E A S U G E S A
I T E O Y D I L M B V B U R G
G T J P O T S S L E B E L S A
M E M A S D N A S E S E G R R
A S S E K R U T G I F H A A M
E V E N T G R O U P M I E T S
R S I N G N I C N A D V L S A
D R A L L A B A B Y M E V O L

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7/28

Again, Albums, Arms, Baby, Ballard, Beat, Beehive, Bego, Berry, Birdsong, Cindy, Concert, Dancing, Diana, Dreamgirl, Event, Ferrer, Florence, Girls, Glue, Gordy, Group, Hurry, Jean, Las Vegas, Life, Love, Mississippi, Morning, Motown, Music, Pedro, Rafael, Ross, Sam, Sands, Sing, Songs, Stars, Stop, Terrell, The Primettes, The Supremes, Turkessa, Vocals

Yesterday's Answer: Genes

Treasures 23 through 43 can be purchased online at
www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Brit swimmer Dean beats COVID twice to win gold at Olympics



T O K Y O

(AP)—Britain's Tom Dean contracted COVID-19 not once but twice in the run-up to the Olympics, leaving him doubting he'd make it to the national trials, never mind Tokyo.

He made it to both and much, much more, winning gold in the 200-meter freestyle on Tuesday and leading an historic 1-2 in swimming for Team GB as teammate Duncan Scott took silver.

"This is the single greatest achievement of my life," Dean said.

It was also Britain's first 1-2 finish in the pool at the Olympics in over 100 years, since the 1908 Games in London.

Dean wasn't sure that kind of swim would be possible for him in January, when he got COVID for a second time in four months. His cardiovascular system was hit, his lungs hurt and he couldn't stop coughing, he said. Training obviously came grinding to a halt as he had to stay in quarantine in his apartment.

The April trials were just three months away.



AP
Tom Dean of Britain celebrates after winning the gold medal in the men's 200-meter freestyle at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.

"The Olympic gold was a million miles away," he said.

"It's amazing. It's a dream come true having a gold around my neck."

Countless Olympians have stories to tell about how the pandemic has intruded on their preparations for Tokyo and made it so much tougher than normal. But few have felt the effects of the illness as directly as Dean did — twice.

And even after the immediate symptoms subsided from

his second infection in January, he couldn't get straight back into the pool because of the lingering effects on his body. He was out of the pool for six to seven weeks, he said, trying to regain his strength.

"I'm thinking how am I

going to be able to recover from this in time to get a solid block of work done before the Olympic trials?" he said. "It was tough kind of wrapping my head around that during an Olympic year.

"It wasn't life-threatening

... but when you are doing a sport that is quite heavy on the cardio-vascular system, and you can see it's affecting your lungs, you're coughing and all that stuff, you're a little bit worried about how you're going to build back in."

The 21-year-old Dean feared his chance at an Olympic debut was gone but credited coach David McNulty for calming him down, and then building him back up again.

Dean's victory was a surprise within Team GB, with teammate Scott tipped as the likelier gold-medal chance out of the two of them. Dean edged out Scott by just four-hundredths of a second, and also took the British record off Scott.

"He's got big arms does Dean-o so you'd probably have to be several meters in front to touch him out," said Scott, who handled his disappointment with grace.

"It was great. With what's he's (Dean) been through this year, it's special."

Without the crowd's roar, Tokyo Olympians search for spirit

TOKYO (AP)—The beloved American gymnast Sam Mikulak flipped off the parallel bars, stuck the landing and blew a kiss toward the camera. Those watching the men's Olympics gymnastic competition on television back home knew they'd seen magic.

"Beautiful!" the broadcast announcer exclaimed. "Wow, that was fantastic!"

But all around Mikulak, the stretches of wooden benches meant to seat thousands sat mostly empty. Cheers erupted from a far back corner of the stands, where Simone Biles and the rest of the women's team screamed as loud as lungs could muster to cut through the eerie quiet of the pandemic Olympic venue.

In arenas across Tokyo, athletes accustomed to feeding off the deafening roar of the crowd are searching for new ways to feel Olympic enthusiasm.

They're rooting for each other as loudly as they can. Some are trying to envision fans at home in their living rooms, leaning into TV screens. They're blasting playlists in backstage training rooms. The lucky few permitted to compete with headphones keep their phones in their pockets, tuned to songs with a beat to replace the thrill of applause.

But others were surprised to find the silence motivating — like another day at the gym rather than the most prestigious competition on Earth. For them, the emptiness numbs the nerves and lets them fully focus on their sport.

"It's kind of nice," said Mikulak, a three-time Olympian whose parallel bar routine

helped usher him to finals. It barely feels like an Olympics to him, he said, but when he stuck that landing and heard his own team cheering, that felt like enough.

"We created our own bubble. We had our own cheering section," he said. "We created our own atmosphere. That's what we thrive in, having each other's backs."

The next day, they returned the favor. The US men's gymnastics team stood in the back waving an American flag and screaming for their female counterparts before the stadium fell quiet again, like the others scattered across Tokyo.

At the Sea Forest Waterway rowing venue, grandstands that stretch for nearly 2,000 meters (yards) are empty all the way to the finish line. The events are so quiet, rowers can hear the ripple of their own wake and the flap of hundreds of national flags whipping in the breeze on the shoreline. What is typically a swelling crescendo of chants and rush of adrenaline over the final 250 meters to the finish line replaced by the labored breathing wracking their lungs.

"When you cross the line and you're hurting, and you feel like you are going to pass out and you don't hear the 'USA! USA!', chant it hurts a little bit more," said US women's rower Ellen Tomek, competing in her third Olympics and reminding herself that people are rooting from her from home. "Everyone is cheering us on, but when you are hurting and sad and you can't look up for your mom in the stands, it sucks."

Other athletes, too, are try-

ing to capture the energy of those fans at home, absent here but still somewhere in the world cheering them on.

Japanese gymnast Mai Murakami said she was thrilled that her home country hosted the Olympics because she hoped many of her admirers could see her perform in person. When even Japanese citizens were barred from attending, she was devastated.

"I get influence from the crowd, and that motivates me," she said through a translator. The silence rattled her, she said, and she made a mistake in her bars performance. "This is my first experience without crowds, so I haven't had that experience before. I couldn't imagine how it would be, so I tried to have no emotion."

She tried to picture her fans watching on TVs and computers, applauding her from across the city. That brought comfort.

Ágatha Bednarczuk, a Brazilian beach volleyball player, won a silver medal in front of her home country in 2016. This Olympics, she said, feels very different.

"In Brazil, we had the biggest support. There were many, many people cheering for us, and here we had silence," she said, drawing a flat line with her hand. "We need to put our emotion in the game, because we can't receive emotion from them. For me, it's very important to play with emotion so I had to bring it from inside."

Many say they are reminding themselves that they made it here—to the Olympics, a lifelong dream for many despite extraordinary

odds including a pandemic that has killed millions and postponed the Games, and for a time threatened to sink them entirely.

"I think that Olympic Games is enough of its own," said Greece men's water polo goaltender Emmanouil Zerdevas. "It's a bit sad, but it is my first time in the Olympic Games, so I'm still happy to be here."

At the silent skateboarding venue, U.S. skater Jagger Eaton found a mood booster in the phone he occasionally fished out of his right pocket while competing to change the music. Skateboarders, unlike other athletes, are able to shut out the quiet by wearing headphones as they compete. Eaton chose the aptly named "Rollin N Controllin" by rapper Dusty Locane as his soundtrack to launch himself into the first-ever Olympic skateboard event, men's street.

"It got me right in the groove," said Eaton, who struggled to skate for an empty crowd. "That's why I am wearing headphones. When I wear headphones, I can create my own hype."

But others have been surprised to find peace in the silence—and a stronger connection to their sport than they tend to feel when the pressure is on.

"Normally, coming into the finish line, when qualification is on the line, it's deafening," said U.S. women's rower Michelle Sechser. "It's the hardest part of the race. Your heart is pounding, your legs are pounding, your breathing is rapid. And it's absolutely silent. It makes it almost like Nirvana."

After fall, Lillard, Adebayo try to help US get up again

SAITAMA, Japan (AP)—Damian Lillard was nearly flat on his back, trying to save a possession the U.S. couldn't afford to lose.

He not only couldn't recover the ball after slipping but made matters even worse when he extended his leg and inadvertently tripped up France's Evan Fournier, getting called for an unsportsmanlike foul.

Lillard's stumble with 17 seconds left was one of the lasting images of the Americans' 83-76 loss in their Olympic opener. Now, just like its guard after that fall, the U.S. has to pick itself back up again.

"I think we are more than capable of doing it," Lillard said.

Lillard and Bam Adebayo have already proven they can rise again after disappointment with the national team.

Both were cut in previous attempts to wear the red, white and blue but have returned to become two of the most important players on this year's team. They both were in the starting lineup Sunday and Adebayo was one of the Americans' best players, finishing with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

It was a strong debut he believes should have come two years earlier.

The Miami Heat star was in training camp with the Americans in Las Vegas but was dropped by coach Gregg Popovich before the team left for China and an eventual seventh-place finish in the Basketball World Cup.

"Like I've always said before, I feel like I should have been on the team from the get-go," Adebayo said. "But me and Pop hashed it out and I just worked on my game. He said I wasn't ready, so I had a point to prove that I could have been on the team and that was my goal, and I did that."

Adebayo went on to help the Heat reach the NBA Finals in 2020 and Popovich acknowledged that perhaps the power forward should have made the team. Adebayo eagerly accepted when he got his second chance just two years later.

Lillard's bad feelings lasted longer.

He was dropped by the Americans just before they left for Spain in 2014 for the World Cup, perhaps making him the best player cut by the U.S. since Jerry Colangelo started the national team program in 2005. The All-Star guard then needed time before he wanted to come back.

Red Sox rally late, extend lead over Blue Jays with 5-4 win



BOSTON— Alex Verdugo hit a two-run

homer in the eighth inning and the AL East-leading Boston Red Sox rallied late for the second straight game, beating Toronto 5-4 on Monday night in the opener of an important series for the Blue Jays.

Boston star Rafael Devers added a solo homer on the four-year anniversary of his first major-league shot. It was the AL All-Star third baseman's first ever homer with a natural-colored barreled bat. Each of the previous 100 in his career were with a dark-colored barrel.

Devers belted one for his first big-league hit in his second career game in a victory at Seattle on July 26, 2017.

Bo Bichette hit a two-run homer for fourth-place Toronto, which fell to 10½ games behind in the East.

A day after being no-hit for seven innings by New York's Domingo Germán before putting up five runs in the eighth to erase a four-run deficit and beat the rival Yankees, Boston's bats were held down until Verdugo belted his drive over the Red Sox bullpen off Trevor Richards (1-1).

It was Boston's major-league leading 33rd come-from-behind victory.

"It's hard to get 27 outs against us. We know that," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "It's a tough place to play. You can feel the energy. In the eighth inning, they were a little bit louder, expecting something big."

Verdugo took his time rounding the bases, enjoying the moment. On Sunday, he broke up the no-hitter with a deep double to right.

"Just rounding the bases, part of it was the moment, putting us up," he said.

Adam Ottavino (3-3) worked a scoreless inning for the win. Matt Barnes got the final three outs for his 22nd save.

Bichette hit his drive over the Green Monster off Nick Pivetta, a shot that hit a wall behind the first row and bounced back onto the field to make it 4-3.

Devers' shot into the right-field seats made it 3-2.

Toronto starter Thomas Hatch made just his second big-league start after being sidelined with a shoulder impingement since spring training. The 26-year-old right-hander gave up three runs on seven hits in 3 2/3 innings.

"My body felt good, my arm felt good, felt like the stuff was coming out pretty good," he said. "For the most part, I felt like my stuff was arriving where I wanted it to. I felt like they made some good swings on some pretty good pitches."

Pivetta gave up four runs on



six hits before being pulled after Bichette's homer.

"It was a definite grind for me. The energy wasn't really there," Pivetta said. "The team did an incredible job for me. It's incredible how they come back like this."

Angels 6, Rockies 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani pitched seven strong innings and hit an early RBI single as Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Ohtani (5-1) gave up one run and five hits with five strikeouts.

Jack Mayfield added a two-run homer for the Angels. Raisel Iglesias worked a scoreless ninth for his 22nd save in 26 chances.

Rockies starter German Marquez, also an All-Star, kept his team close until Mayfield's seventh-inning homer. Dom Nunez and Brendan Rodgers went deep for Colorado.

Marquez (8-8) permitted four runs (three earned) on eight hits over 6 1/3 innings with no walks and eight strikeouts.

Phillies 6, Nationals 5

In Philadelphia, Andrew Mc-

Cutchen hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Philadelphia a victory over sinking Washington.

Rhys Hoskins also had a three-run homer for the second-place Phillies, who are 3 1/2 games behind the New York Mets in the NL East.

Jean Segura led off the ninth against Brad Hand (5-5) with a double. After J.T. Realmuto struck out, Bryce Harper walked. McCutchen drove the next pitch, a 92 mph sinker, to the opposite field and over the wall in right.

It was the second straight blown save for Hand.

Archie Bradley (5-1) allowed a run in the top of the ninth but got the win.

Josh Bell tripled and drove in two runs for the Nationals, who have lost five straight and 11 of 14.

Braves 2, Mets 0, 1st game Mets 1, Braves 0, 2nd game

In New York, Jeff McNeil laced his second go-ahead hit in two days when his RBI double in the fifth inning sent New York to a victory over At-

lanta and a doubleheader split.

Kyle Muller threw five sharp innings to earn his second big league victory in the opener, a win for the Braves.

The Mets have split nine of their 11 doubleheaders this season and swept the other two.

Trevor May (3-2), the fourth of six Mets pitchers Monday night, threw a perfect fifth and earned the win.

Edwin Diaz struck out the side in a perfect seventh for his 22nd save.

In the first game, the 23-year-old Kyle Muller (2-3) gave up four hits and walked two while striking out three. He allowed the Mets to advance just two runners as far as second base.

Tyler Matzek threw a perfect sixth and Will Smith earned his 20th save.

Marcus Stroman (7-9) took the loss.

Royals 4, White Sox 3

In Kansas City, Jorge Soler hit two home runs for the second straight game and Kansas City extended its winning streak to six games with a win over Chicago.

Mike Minor (8-8) gave the

Royals their fifth quality start in the last six games. He allowed two runs on three hits over six innings. He walked two and struck out seven. Scott Barlow worked the final two innings and picked up his sixth save.

Dallas Keuchel (7-4) took the loss after surrendering three solo home runs. He allowed four runs on six hits over six innings. He walked one and struck out three.

Andrew Benintendi helped the Royals extend the lead with a home run. He snapped an 0-for-13 skid with the homer.

The White Sox got a run in the ninth when Adam Engel singled in Yoan Moncada.

Twins 6, Tigers 5, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Max Kepler's RBI single in the bottom of the 10th inning against All-Star closer Gregory Soto gave Minnesota a win over Detroit.

Soto walked the bases loaded in the ninth before striking out Williams Astudillo on three pitches. Soto had two outs in the 10th, but walked Andreton Simmons and then gave up Kepler's ninth career game-ending hit.

AP
Boston Red Sox's Alex Verdugo celebrates as he heads home after his two-run home run in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays at Fenway Park, Monday, July 26, 2021, in Boston.

Robbie Grossman's pinch-hit, two-run homer tied the game for the Tigers with one out in the ninth after Twins All-Star closer Taylor Rogers exited with a sprained left middle finger. Alex Colomé completed the walk to Jeimer Candelario, and Grossman hit the first pitch he saw for a high fly to left that landed just beyond the limestone facade.

Brent Rooker and Josh Donaldson homered and Mitch Garver doubled twice against Tigers starter Matt Manning.

Eric Haase also homered for the Tigers, who have lost eight road games in a row.

Cubs 6, Reds 5

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Javier Báez hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Chicago a win over Cincinnati.

Anthony Rizzo homered in his second straight game for the Cubs. Willson Contreras also homered.

Joey Votto homered for the third time in three games and drove in three runs for Cincinnati, which dropped its second straight and lost for the seventh time in 10 games. Kyle Farmer added a homer as the Reds' winning streak against Chicago ended at four.

Heath Hembree (2-5) took the loss.

Craig Kimbrel (2-3) struck out three straight to end the top of the inning after putting two men on.

Mariners 11, Astros 8

In Seattle, Dylan Moore hit a grand slam in the eighth inning to lift Seattle to a comeback win against Houston.

Houston scored six runs in the first and led 7-0 in the fourth before Seattle started to rally. The seven-run deficit is the most the Mariners have overcome this season, and the largest cushion the AL West-leading Astros have lost.

In the eighth, the Mariners loaded the bases with two outs down 8-7. Moore launched reliever Brooks Raley's 1-1 pitch into the left field second deck for his fourth homer of the season to complete the comeback.

After giving up Moore's slam, Raley hit J.P. Crawford in the back with a 3-1 pitch and was ejected. Crawford had three hits and scored twice.

Kendall Graveman (4-0) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Paul Sewald earned his fourth save with a perfect ninth.

Ryne Stanek (1-2) took the loss.

Source: Pelicans, Grizzlies, agree to multi-player trade



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies have agreed to trade center Jonas Valanciunas to the New Orleans Pelicans in exchange for center Steven Adams, guard Eric Bledsoe and a swap of multiple draft choices, a person familiar with the situation said.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity on Monday because no trade can become official until Aug. 6.

The trade, first reported by ESPN, sends New Orleans'

10th and 40th overall draft choices to Memphis for the Grizzlies' 17th and 51st overall picks this year.

Memphis also will receive a protected 2022 first-round choice from New Orleans.

The deal comes on the heels of New Orleans' decision to hire Willie Green, their third head coach in three seasons, as the franchise faces mounting pressure to inspire confidence in star forward Zion Williamson after missing the playoffs his first two NBA campaigns.

Valanciunas has played nine seasons in the NBA, av-

eraging 12.9 and 9.2 points per game. The 29-year-old center from Lithuania has spent his past three seasons with Memphis. Last season, he averaged 17.1 points and 12.5 rebounds to help the Grizzlies reach the playoffs.

The deal clears the way for young Pelicans guards Nickeil Alexander-Walker and Kira Lewis Jr. — both first-round draft choices in the past two years — to see more playing time. The move also gives New Orleans more than \$20 million in additional space under the salary cap heading into free agency. Va-

lanciunas is due \$14 million this season, while Bledsoe is set to earn \$18 million and Adams \$17 million.

Bledsoe is an 11-year veteran who averaged 12.2 points, 3.8 assists and 3.4 rebounds in his lone season with the Pelicans, who had acquired him from Milwaukee during the 2020 offseason as part of a trade that sent Jrue Holiday to the Bucks.

Adams is an eight-year veteran who averaged 8.9 rebounds and 7.6 points for New Orleans last season after spending his first seven NBA campaigns with Oklahoma City.

Family reunion awaits Philippines' 1st Olympic champion

TOKYO (AP)—From a bamboo pole to Olympic gold, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz's arduous buildup to the Tokyo Games culminated on the top step of the podium.

Diaz won the first gold medal for the Philippines on Monday, a triumphant result for a country that has competed at every Summer Olympics except one since 1924.

Diaz, who upset world record holder Liao Qiuyun of China with her final lift, was training in Malaysia when the coronavirus pandemic hit and has been separated from her family for quite some time.

"I'm looking forward to going home to the Philippines and being with my family, because I really miss them," Diaz said. "I'm looking forward to enjoying life because I've been in Malaysia for almost three years, so I'm really thankful that I can go home now and celebrate with my family."

Diaz is four-time Olympian who carried her country's flag during the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Games and won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

"It's a dream come true," Diaz said. "I just want to say that we Filipino are strong. We Filipino can compete here at the Olympics. We can do it. To all the young generation in the Philippines, please dream high. That's how I started. I dreamed high and finally I was

able to do it."

She also had to overcome some obstacles.

At one stage when her gym was closed during lockdown, Diaz trained with large water bottles attached to a bamboo pole, holding the weight above her head and squatting to work on core strength.

Diaz, who holds the rank of sergeant in the Philippines Air Force, offered a salute on the podium. She also said her faith played a large part in a win she called "a miracle."

Diaz was a firm supporter of hosting the Olympics during the pandemic. She posted a picture on Instagram with International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach last week, praising him for "standing and not giving up on the Olympics."

In the Philippines, Diaz's win was euphoric for a Southeast Asian nation that has been grappling with the second-largest number of coronavirus infections and deaths in the region and the aftermath of torrential monsoon rains that have flooded the capital and outlying provinces and displaced thousands of villagers.

President Rodrigo Duterte, top defense and military officials, business leaders and ordinary Filipinos expressed gratitude and congratulations. A senator filed a resolution commending Diaz for overcoming



AP
Hidilyn Diaz of Philippines competes in the women's 55kg weightlifting event, at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Monday, July 26, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.

daunting odds and taking a place in her country's "pantheon of legendary athletes."

"Hidilyn's gold medal

shines bright in the dark story of the pandemic," Sen. Risa Hontiveros said.

From her impoverished

beginnings in sports as a girl who lifted plastic pipes and homemade concrete weights cast in old tin cans, Diaz

"should serve as a reminder of every Filipina's resilience in the face of adversity...and strength against all odds," Hontiveros said.

Another senator proposed that the Philippine air force commission Diaz as an officer for her feat.

Aside from well wishes, a windfall of financial rewards await Diaz. Philippine officials and companies have pledged more than 30 million pesos (\$600,000) in cash and other rewards for any member of the small Filipino contingent that would bring home the long-elusive Olympic gold. A leading Philippine real estate company announced that it would reward Diaz with a residential condominium unit in an upscale district in metropolitan Manila.

Olympic outsider teams celebrate rare gold medals in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP)—The Tokyo Olympics have brought some unexpected gold medals for countries and teams which rarely, if ever, see their athletes on the podium. Here's a look at some of the teams which have won events despite having little history of Olympic success.

BERMUDA

The Atlantic island of only 65,000 people — they could all fit into the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo — has its first gold medalist after Flora

Duffy won the women's triathlon on Tuesday. She is one of only two athletes representing the self-governing British territory at the Tokyo Games. Duffy had to put up with wind and driving rain to win her gold as a storm moved up the Japanese coast. "I was Bermuda's first medal hope in many years. I wanted to achieve this for myself and my country. I was overwhelmed," she said.

PHILIPPINES

After 97 years of competing

at the Olympics, the Philippines finally has a gold medal to celebrate. Hidilyn Diaz was up against the world record holder in the women's 55-kilogram weightlifting category but still won. Diaz is now looking forward to a long-awaited return home after the coronavirus pandemic left her stranded in Malaysia without seeing family and friends. "To all the young generation in the Philippines, please dream high," Diaz said.

HONG KONG

Hong Kong last won a gold medal 25 years ago, a year before the port city was returned to China from Britain. Windsurfer Lee Lai Shan had a sculpture installed in her honor on the beachfront. Fencer Cheung Ka Long could be in line for a similar honor after he became Hong Kong's second Olympic champion with victory in the men's saber on Monday. "It means a lot to show to the world we can do it," Cheung said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| Boston | 62 | 39 | .614 | |
| Tampa Bay | 60 | 40 | .600 | 1½ |
| New York | 51 | 47 | .520 | 9½ |
| Toronto | 49 | 47 | .510 | 10½ |
| Baltimore | 34 | 64 | .347 | 26½ |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Chicago | 59 | 41 | .590 | |
| Cleveland | 49 | 48 | .505 | 8½ |
| Detroit | 47 | 55 | .461 | 13 |
| Kansas City | 43 | 55 | .439 | 15 |
| Minnesota | 43 | 58 | .426 | 16½ |

West Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Houston | 61 | 40 | .604 | |
| Oakland | 56 | 45 | .554 | 5 |
| Seattle | 55 | 46 | .545 | 6 |
| Los Angeles | 50 | 49 | .505 | 10 |
| Texas | 35 | 65 | .350 | 25½ |

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|------|----|
| New York | 53 | 45 | .541 | |
| Philadelphia | 50 | 49 | .505 | 3½ |
| Atlanta | 49 | 51 | .490 | 5 |
| Washington | 45 | 54 | .455 | 8½ |
| Miami | 43 | 57 | .430 | 11 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Milwaukee | 58 | 42 | .580 | |
| Cincinnati | 51 | 49 | .510 | 7 |
| St. Louis | 50 | 50 | .500 | 8 |
| Chicago | 50 | 51 | .495 | 8½ |
| Pittsburgh | 38 | 61 | .384 | 19½ |

West Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| San Francisco | 62 | 37 | .626 | |
| Los Angeles | 61 | 40 | .604 | 2 |
| San Diego | 58 | 44 | .569 | 5½ |
| Colorado | 43 | 57 | .430 | 19½ |
| Arizona | 31 | 70 | .307 | 32 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WARRIORS

From Page 20

out in the do-or-die second game and rising from the challenge after the sorry loss in the first game.

"The kids gave it their all. As a coach, it was not the

win that was rewarding but it was the fact that the players pay attention to your instructions and court plays. The championship is just the icing on the cake," he said. The Warriors' assistant coach was T.J. Factor.

In the first game of the U12

finals played earlier, Viola scored 8 points and Laxama added 4 as the Suns forced the rubber match with the aforementioned 4-point win. Warriors, who topped the eliminations, were led by the 6 markers of Barbo in that match.

Results of the U9 division

of the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

First Game

Phoenix Suns 17 — Viola 8, Laxama 4, Enriquez 3, Pangelinan 2.

Golden State Warriors 13 — Barbo 6, Sablan 5, Apatang 2.

Second Game

Golden State Warriors 12 — Barbo 6, Sablan 6.

Phoenix Suns 11 — Viola 5, Enriquez 4, Maratita 2.

IAKOPOS

From Page 20

easy for me and I could just sleep[walk] and beat them. The challenge are the young guys and I wanted to run against them and test my skills," Stanley said.

The 49-year-old also thanked NMA for holding a "great event" that helps everyone improve their running times in preparation for next year's 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games the CNMI will be hosting for the first time.

Filomenaleonisa, for her

part, emerged No. 1 in the women's 18-and-under 100m after crossing the finish line in 13.31. She beat Leani DLG Acosta and Maria Quitugua who came in at 14.31 and 15.09, respectively.

"Just a lot of hard work. A lot of dedication to the train-

ing and to never give up," said Filomenaleonisa when asked what was the key to her win in the 100m.

She also thanked her parents for her latest accomplishment in track. "He's (Stanley) my coach and together with my mom, they're my No. 1

supporters."

Aside from the Friday's 100m, NMA also held events in the 3,000m last Friday and 800m, 200m, javelin, and discus last Saturday. Results of the field events will be published in the next issues of the *Saipan Tribune*.

JINNOSE

From Page 20

tion of being in the selection race. Even if the weather was not on our side we still swam through it and it was a good experience for us swimmers. Lastly, I want to thank the people that help make this event happen."

Tsunami Saipan's Asaka Litulumar was the first woman to compete the race in her debut in the qualifier. She timed in at 11:29.47 to beat out her sister, Shoko, who crossed the flag in 12:01.453. SSC's Savita Sikkell was third in

12:32.94.

"I was thrilled to be part of the qualifiers last week. I had an amazing time but it was a bit of a challenge because the water was rough and the current was strong. Every swimmer did great out there despite this challenge and I believe we will continue to do our best in the next race," said Asaka after the race.

Shoko, for her part, said it's a credit to the swimmers that the inclement weather didn't deter them from competing in the open water swim.

"The day the second ocean swim was held, the current was strong, the waves were

humongous, and it was raining hard. For any other person, it would look like the race would be canceled, but to me and my swim teammates, it was an obstacle to overcome to get stronger and faster," she said.

Shoko added while they looked forward to swimming under those conditions, it's not to say that the event didn't have its scary moments.

"I was excited to swim in the current, but once I swam warm-up, it was serious. I choked on the water I thought I'd die. But even so, it was a new experience I knew I

would never pass. I swam the 1K with all my might, but I know I could have swum faster. I need to practice harder and sharpen my swimming technique for the next ocean swim this September. I hope to have my time improve for that race. I will do my best and train harder than ever."

Sikkell seconded Shoko's take and extended kudos to all participants for taking on the challenge head on. "During the race last Saturday, the weather conditions were not ideal. However, we were still able to compete and all the races went well."

Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series was sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation and is the second of three events, which main purpose is to choose four swimmers (top two men and top two women) that will represent the CNMI in the 2021 FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December.

Results of the 20m for beginners, 50m for intermediate, 100m for advanced, 500m open, and 1,000m open will be published in the next issues of the *Saipan Tribune*.



Brit swimmer Dean
beats COVID twice to
win gold at Olympics

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Family reunion
awaits Philippines' 1st
Olympic champion

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Iakopos sweep 100m sprint

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Stanley Iakopo came out of retirement to show the young ones how it's done in the 100m sprint, while her daughter Filomenaleonisa also topped the women's division in the same event in Northern Marianas Athletics' Track and Field Open Meet last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.



The 1999 Guam South Pacific Games veteran nearly burned the tracks with a scorching run of 12.26 to not only win the men's



45-and-over but also beat all challengers, some more than half his age.

Orrin Pharmin came in second in the men's open 100m with a time of 12.88, while

Beouch Ngirhongor was third at 13.17. In the 18-and-under, Arson Atan was the first to cross the finish line in 12.45, followed by Theo Rodgers and youngster Leon Dela Cruz

at 12.61 and 13.89, respectively. Ageless Kosuke Sato topped the men's 50-54 with a time of 13.6.

Stanley said despite his impressive showing, taking part

in the 100m didn't cross his mind until last week when his children suggested he come out of retirement.

"It's time for my kids to takeover. However, about a

LAO ZHANG
The father-and-daughter pair of Stanley and Iakopo warmup before running the 100m event of Northern Marianas Athletics' Track and Field Open Meet last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

week ago they said 'Daddy, why don't you run [again]. I know there are a lot of fast runners already that've been training. But since we always keep in shape and have a lifestyle of being fit, I decide to [come out of retirement]."

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer said he originally thought of entering in the masters category, but changed his mind to give his children another lesson to learn from.

"I came here today hoping to run in the masters but I see these young guns and I said 'I wanna run against them. I wanna challenge them.' It's something I always try to instill to my kids to always challenge the best. I didn't want to take the easy way out and outrun all the masters. That's

See IAKOPOS on Page 19

Jinnosuke paces qualifiers anew; Asaka tops women

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jinnosuke Suzuki proved his victory in the 1,000 qualifier in the first part of Saipan Swimming Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series earlier this month was no fluke by again winning the second part last Saturday morning in the waters off the Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

Suzuki was the first green-capped swimmer to touch

the flag in a time of 9:56.75 to easily eclipse the 13:01:1 he turned in last time out.

Fellow Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan member Juhn Tenorio came in second anew at 10:15.34, which was also an improvement on the 13:25.5 he registered in the July 10 event.

SSC's Taiyo Akimaru and Jakey Deleon Guerrero finished third and fourth with times of 10:56.69 and

11:30.611, respectively.

Curiously, Suzuki's faster time came even as large swells almost made SSC coach Richard Sikkell cancel the open water swim.

"Although the weather was not very good, I still had fun swimming because it was a different experience. The current and waves made it harder to swim than before," Suzuki said.

Tenorio said despite finishing second again he's just happy to be in the mix. "I am grateful to be in the posi-

See JINNOSE on Page 19

MARK RABAGO

From left, Taiyo Akimaru Jinnosuke Suzuki, Juhn Tenorio (squatting), Asaka and Shoko Litulumar, and Savita Sikkell pose for a group photo after taking part in the 1,000m qualifier of Saipan Swimming Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series last Saturday morning in the waters off the Civic Center Beach in Susupe.



Warriors take down Suns in U12

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash definitely borrowed the names of NBA teams and the U12 finals saw the Golden State Warriors nip the Phoenix Suns for the championship at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Suns managed to force a winner-take-all Game 2 af-

ter upsetting the Warriors in the first game, 17-13, earlier in the day. However, the Warriors just had enough chutzpah in the second game to eke out a 12-11 win to claim the U12 championship.

Percy Barbo and Liam Sablan tag-teamed all game long in the clincher with 6 points apiece to pace coach Mike Mercado's team, while the 5 markers and 13 monster rebounds of Suns center Kobe Viola paced the runners-up.

Barbo also had 2 rebounds and 2 steals for the victors.

The rest of the Warriors was made up of Dave Apatang Jr., Ed Manibusan Jr., Liam Tomokane, and Jason Sue, while aside from Viola, the Suns roster included Hunter Dela Cruz, Payton Pangelinan, Lance Laxama, Collin Maratita, and Venice Enriquez.

Mercado said he's thrilled for his players for gutting it

See WARRIORS on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Golden State Warriors players and coaching staff pose with their medals after winning the U12 division of the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.